

***THE TIME IS AT HAND!***

**BY E. FRANK**



### **William Branham – A Man Sent from God**

With Christ before me, I have endeavoured to write this brochure with the intention to bring about a balanced attitude regarding the ministry and message of God's servant and prophet, William Branham. God Himself testified, "*As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, you are sent with a message to forerun the second coming.*"

The Holy Spirit has impressed me to write this brochure, although I feel I'm the least capable for this difficult task. It was not easy to find the right words at all times, but as my saying goes, "*If you are right in your heart, you will understand all things the right way.*" May God bless you!

The Author

## Foreword

We, as the elders of the local church in Krefeld, Germany, deem it a privilege to place this brochure into your hands and we trust that the richest blessings of the almighty will rest upon you while reading it.

Without doubt, this brochure will fall into the hands of believers, unbelievers and also those, who have not yet made their decision. May the Lord have His way with you.

We as a congregation love Bro. Branham and believe the Message he brought. His ministry had laid the foundation for us to come back to the unadulterated Word. The whole building of the church of the living God rests upon that chief cornerstone, Who is also the Headstone, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, He that is, was and shall come, the Almighty.

We fully realise that no man can wear Bro. Branham's shoes, as he had a special calling and ministry. Yet he himself said, "I can make mistakes, I'm a man, but God's Word is infallible." The things he spoke in the name of the Lord are 'Thus Saith the Lord!' But when it comes to exulting a man or even attaching absolute authority to his person instead of God's Word, it is quite obvious that the spirit of the first organised church is behind it. You judge for yourself!

We realise many organisations claim to have God and ... . They have the Bible plus ... – thus establishing their doctrines apart from the Word. It is our conviction that a God-ordained ministry can never contradict the Word of God; in fact, there cannot be any adding or taking away.

For many years now, we have been associated with Bro. Frank, have known him personally and observed his ministry locally and in other countries. We fully back him in the world-wide missionary outreach because of his stand on the Word, as we are witnesses of the things God has done, not only in the church here, which grew from a handful to several hundred, but also throughout Europe and the uttermost parts of the earth. He has not spared himself, but in addition to our regular services, he has spent countless hours to make the sermons of Bro. Branham available to us in print and on tapes. He has translated hundreds of messages during our services. Our prayers always accompany him and we fully stand behind the call God has given him. His three brochures, "Only Believe the Thus Saith the Lord!", "The Impact of Revelation" and "Christ and His Church in the Prophecy" have been a blessing to many. More than 80 000 copies have been sent out and

numerous people have written to express their appreciation because they have come to a better understanding of the End-time Message from the scriptural point of view. This is not a duplication of efforts, but rather meant to assist those who need help. The Lord did not stop His work after taking His servant and prophet and He Himself is about to finish His work in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

May God richly bless you!

L. Russ      P. Schmidt

---

### THE TIME IS AT HAND!

For nearly two thousand years, the believers have waited for certain Scriptures to be fulfilled, but “the time was not yet.” According to God’s laws, all things must come to pass in His appointed time and season. When the fullness of time had come for Christ to appear, His forerunner, John the Baptist, cried out: *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* The time they had so long waited for had finally arrived. The predictions turned into reality.

The Lord Jesus Christ started out His teaching ministry in saying: *“Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* While the Apostle John witnessed the unfolding of the plan of salvation on the Isle of Patmos, he wrote: *“Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep the things, which are written therein for the time is at hand.”* After he had seen and heard all these things, he was told, *“Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand!”*

With great expectation, all the saints of God throughout the church ages have longed for the fulfilment of prophecies concerning the end-time. Time has certainly moved on and all is pointing to the fact that the coming of Jesus Christ is at hand. Many events connected with that great event have already taken place or will transpire in the imminent future. There can be no further delay, for the time is at hand, wherein God will fully vindicate His Word. The elect of God will realise that the time is at hand for something to take place and search the Scripture diligently, waiting with great anticipation for the realisation of the promises.

Whenever God does something on earth, the people must make their decision. Religious leaders bear an extra great responsibility because of

their influence amongst the people, and should think twice before they speak once, lest they misjudge the Word of God and His works.

In the days of the first coming of Jesus Christ, the Jews were unable to see the promised Word fulfilled because the priests had taken their stand against Him. They resisted Him and opposed His ministry because they were blinded to the very Truth they preached about. The Lord performed great signs and wonders before their very eyes, did all the things the Scriptures spoke of, but because it was contrary to their understanding of the Scripture, they declared the Lord of Glory and His works to be of the devil. History always repeats itself at times of special visitations of Almighty God. Whenever He performs something on earth, Satan does his utmost to discourage the people and keep them from having a part in it.

Religious leaders of today may refer back to Moses and Abraham, Peter and Paul and other great men in the history of the Church, yet fail to see what God is presently doing. Renowned men preach the Gospel in our day, but are ignorant of what is actually taking place in the kingdom of God according to His promised Word now.

After the New Testament Church was established on the Day of Pentecost, Almighty God sent many revivals upon the earth, but now we find ourselves in the midst of the final move of God. It is sad to have to say that many who are involved in the evangelistic and international missionary outreach in this generation either belong to a Christian denomination and are obligated to its doctrines, or they themselves have formed their own missionary organisations.

It is a well-known fact, however, that the Lord has sent His man, who represented no denomination, not even himself, but God and His Word. He had a confirmed ministry that was unrivalled by any other up to this time. As the prophets of old, he too received a direct divine call. His ministry was outstanding and the closest to that of Christ. His whole life was so Christ-like, that the carnally-minded were perplexed, others diverted into fanaticism; the spiritually-minded, however, praised God for such a visitation, for the Word of God took on a new meaning for them. As in all other ages, so it is today. Some are for and others are against; some understand, others misunderstand.

You may question, "What is all the commotion about?" Those who know the infallible gift of discernment in the life and ministry of this humble vessel God has chosen, are quickly leaning towards overemphasising the man. As a result, sincere people have been put off or have become wary

because they saw the fanaticism of those claiming to believe the message God has given. It has reached the point in which the one whom God has used so mightily has become the main object of controversy, but in spite of the confusion, God has a people; the Bride of Jesus Christ. She believes in a real experience of salvation, she recognises the moving of the Spirit of God and because she is led by the Holy Spirit, she will find her way through. She is feeding on the Bread of Life and abides in the Word.

From the Old and the New Testament, we can clearly see that whenever God does something on earth, the enemy will not rest unless he causes upsets amongst the people. Therefore any foolishness later done by the followers should not be attributed to the true men sent from God. The actions of individuals only bring to light whether they follow Christ or are just taken up with a man. The blame goes to those who do not have the spiritual understanding of the plan and purpose of God, and “walk with hob-nailed shoes, where angels fear to tread.”

There are only two sources of inspiration, and in every age there were the spiritually- and the carnally-minded. Individuals and movements have fallen into error by following unscriptural teachings caused by seductive spirits. It is therefore needful to apply the only measuring-rod, the **written Word of God**. The *time is at hand* to speak up plainly, whatever the consequences may be. Those who have an ear to hear, will do so.

The background for all things is found only in the Scripture. The prophet Moses rose under a divine commission; Jannes and Jambres were sent by the enemy to confuse the people. They tried to do the same miracles, but without divine commission. Because they didn't have the promised Word of the hour, they could offer no deliverance nor a blessing to God's people.

After the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt by the mighty hand of God, Korah and Dathan were wrongly inspired and did their utmost to upset the people within their own camp, stirring up resentment in their midst that Moses was claiming too much for himself. Even Aaron, Moses' brother, committed a dreadful sin by making a golden calf, saying, “*These are our gods, who delivered us out of Egypt.*” (Ex. 32:4) It was the same Aaron, who was to bear the names of the children of Israel in his breastplate upon his heart, whenever he went into the holy place. (Ex. 28:29–30)

After all that turmoil within the camp of Israel, Balaam came forth to curse them. God, however, did not permit to curse what He had blest. But watch the shrewdness of the enemy's approach! How was he able to

deceive them? He caused Balaam to be a stumbling block in the way of the redeemed and thereby, idolatry was brought into their ranks, blinding their eyes to the actual leading of God. Later, when judgement struck them because of their murmuring and sinning, God commissioned Moses to erect the brazen serpent. Those who were bitten were healed immediately when they looked upon it in faith, realising that one day the Redeemer would be lifted up to bruise the serpent's head.

The serpent has never symbolised Christ or the redemptive work, but has always represented the devil. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, of whom it is written, that he walked in the ways of the Lord, destroyed the very serpent Moses had erected. You may ask: How could this have been pleasing unto the Lord, when it had originally been erected under the direct commission of the Almighty? – The very thing had turned into a curse because a seductive spirit was motivating the people to worship it.

Any outsider could rightfully point to the many upsets in their midst, yet in spite of it all, there was still a remnant of God's people, who looked upon the things that God was doing in their midst. We all must make our choice whether we are going to thrive upon all the enemy does, or whether we are going to look upon the things God is doing by His holy Word. A true believer will always keep his balance and go on with the Lord.

As we are living in the time just prior to the return of Jesus Christ, my thoughts go back to His first coming. It was not easy for the people of that day to find their way through. The Bible mentions two men, who rose to upset the minds of the Israelites. One was Theudas, the other Judas of Galilee. (Acts 5:34–39) Such men always gather a close circle of followers around themselves and promise great things which never happen. Religious leaders then take advantage of such occasions and focus the attention upon the situations and warn or caution the people.

When John the Baptist or even the Lord Jesus began His ministry, the priests no doubt classified them in the same category as the men who had risen in the past. They could have minimised or ridiculed those following the ministry of John the Baptist, saying, "There is your great prophet John, who is now beheaded! His great ministry is over and his followers will scatter." They could have referred to Judas, who had betrayed his Master and then took his own life. How right their arguments may have seemed when our Saviour was crucified on Calvary! To the bystanders, including the critics, it all seemed to be a just a confusion.

Many things that accompanied the beginning of the New Testament era appeared to be unbalanced and confusing, but those who saw the fulfilment of God's promised Word, looked upon the same things differently. They could see the Word of God come to pass amidst all the apparent confusion. The Apostle Paul then warns of false brethren, who would rise up from amongst them and preach perverse doctrines and draw disciples after themselves (Acts 20:30). The Apostle John even warns of the anti-Christ spirit, which began to work amongst the people then and also does in our present time.

I don't find it necessary to concentrate on those men who have obviously gone astray, who have fallen into the snare of the enemy and have thus brought a shameful reproach upon Christ and His Word. Their foolishness is already made known or will be soon. We must be on guard, as there are still those who hide themselves under the cloak of the end-time message and promote their own doctrines. The enemy does not always come as a roaring lion; no, he always comes as cunningly as a serpent and deceives those, who give ear to his arguments. There is no space for tolerance here. Jesus Christ used very strong language and spoke forcefully against the onslaughts of the enemy, when something was said under false inspiration and was contrary to the Word. *"Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from Thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind Me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."* (Matth. 16: 22–23)

This same Jesus still opposes anything that goes forth under the wrong inspiration. He did not say, "Peter, get thee behind me!" He addressed the actual source and spoke directly to Satan. Therefore if the Spirit of Truth is in us, we are going to stand against all unscriptural teachings. Far be it that I try to find fault with any brother, but I charge every Christian to discern the things instigated by the enemy to upset and confuse the believers. Unless we do that under all circumstances, we are in danger of sliding into those things ourselves. If we tolerate false teachings, a wrong spirit is corrupting our minds. *The time is at hand* to speak the Word boldly. We may be shocked at the moment, but the Truth shall set us free. When error is brought to light, it is judged by the Light, and the enemy loses his stronghold. Responsible brethren who have deviated from the Word, should be left, for God has already left them. They will cause others to be led astray by another spirit as well. If we could only say what the Scripture says and remain silent, where the Scripture is silent, much



trouble could be avoided. The slightest deviation from the original Word is most dangerous. The enemy is behind all false theological conceptions, but God is in His Word.

Satan puts the emphasis on extra knowledge. If the precious sincere people could only detect the lies and sense the poison of the old serpent in the many interpretations they would flee from the tree of knowledge and return to the tree of Life, fully believing God's holy Word. The Word is Spirit and Life; any private interpretation is death and separates us from God. God will do all He has promised, when the time comes. We need the true discernment of the Holy Spirit now more than ever before. It has become obvious that people who claim to believe the revealed Word for our time actually disregard the Scriptures, pick out their pet quotations from Bro. Branham's sermons instead and make them fit their own doctrines. Some have lost their balance because they have not lined all things up with God's holy Word. They have left the plain teachings of the Scripture and have made another Gospel without even being aware of it. The time has come for the Lord Jesus Christ to have the pre-eminence not in words only, but in Truth and reality.

Of course, we're grateful to God for all His servants, but we preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Has it not become apparent that the cross has been set aside and the great conqueror dethroned in the heart of many a believer in the end-time message? God is looking for a people fully committed to His Word, who receive His Life and bear His fruit. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away,"* said Jesus our Lord. He did not explain His power or ministry, but He overcame the enemy by using the Sword of the Spirit – THE WRITTEN WORD. That is the only way we can overcome the enemy. Our experiences, our teachings, whatever it may be, amount to nothing, if they are not based upon God's holy Word. May the Lord Jesus Christ have the first place in our lives, so that He can manifest his victory through us.

### **God-ordained Ministries**

According to Ephesians 4:11, the five offices divinely appointed in the church of the living God are: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Anyone can claim to be a minister after his theological training, but this does not fulfil divine requirements.

God-ordained men were placed into the Church: *"... who from the beginning were eye-witnesses and the ministries of the Word."* (Luke 1:2) An

eye-witness is not necessarily a minister of the Word, but a minister will recognise the things God does according to the Scripture. Jesus Christ said to His disciples: *“Ye are my witnesses!”*

A servant of God sees the things the Lord does and is enlightened by the Holy Spirit to understand what is taking place in the kingdom of God. *“Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.”* (Luke 1)

There is nothing uncertain about the things God does, but we should wait upon the Lord before we start to speak or write and get the perfect understanding of the matter first. Many people witnessed the things that took place in the days of Jesus Christ, but only the chosen vessels of God were used to speak and to write under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Luke was not presumptuous when he spoke of having had *perfect understanding of all things* from the very beginning. When God calls someone, He equips His servant with the ability he needs to accomplish a certain task. Then it is not the individual, it is God working through that person.

Luke records the account of the greatest announcement of that time, when he speaks of the bright shining light, which came down in the darkest of night, while the shepherds were watching their flock. *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:11) The *light* and the *announcement went together with the message of that hour*. This is the lesson we must learn. The light and the message point to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is All in All of God’s message. The shepherds had received a message. They were told where to go. What if they had only talked about the message, the light, the angels, that great heavenly chorus? All that was wonderful, but the shepherds acted upon the Word, took heed to the message, and found Christ, the answer, the centre of all things in the kingdom of God. There was no more need for any guessing or any interpretations of the light or the message, for God had interpreted His own Word by letting it come to pass – the Word became flesh. The shepherds did not worship the light nor the messenger, they worshipped Christ. Not the knowledge of things brings life; to know HIM is life eternal. Even if we would know all the hidden mysteries and have faith

to move mountains, but miss out in knowing Him, without the true love God which is manifested through HIM, we would be nothing.

Luke was not a prophet, yet he had *perfect understanding* of all the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. It takes a prophet of God to bring out scriptural revelation, but after the promised Word of God is fulfilled, there must also be a God-given teaching ministry to place all things into their proper order.

God's children are chosen and foreordained to be members of the Body of Christ. He has redeemed them by shedding His holy blood on Calvary; He sanctified them by the Word and the Spirit of Truth. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are positionally placed into the Body of Christ. The Holy Scripture speaks of the specific members and the manifestation of the Holy Spirit through them, but because of ignorance and fear, the Church of the living God is bound spiritually. With the right understanding of God's plan and purpose, true faith sets in and the Spirit of God begins to move.

The Bride-Church must be restored in doctrine, practice and the same power she had at the beginning. The real manifestations of the Holy Spirit cannot be dismissed simply because there are so many imitations. There is a vast difference if the people are using the gifts at their own discretion, or if they come together in the fear of God and wait until the Holy Spirit uses the vessel and the gift God has placed in the Church for the edification of all.

The Body of Christ should be His living manifestation on earth , whereby He speaks and performs all things according to His divine purpose. The time is at hand for us to reach perfection in Christ and in order to obtain this perfection in Him, we must find the Scriptural way. According to Ephesians 4, the five-fold ministry is placed into the Church “... *for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry...*” Before God can send the dynamics of the power of the Holy Spirit, the mechanics of the vessels to be used must be put into order. The Lord always keeps His promises, if we are willing to line up with His Word and acknowledge the conditions.

Sometimes people say, “We have Christ, we do not need a prophet, etc.” Is this to say that the early Church did not have Christ because there were prophets, apostles, teachers and so forth? Is this to say that these ministries were placed into the Church because they did not have Christ? Or must it be said that the early Church had Christ and therefore had all the God-ordained ministries? A true child of God will always respect a divine call and benefit from the God-given ministry.

The ministry of a God-sent apostles and God-ordained prophets is very essential in the New Testament Church. An apostle is a ‘sent-one’ with a special responsibility for the Church. In Acts 2:42 we read: *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* It does not say “The early Church continued in the doctrine of the teachers, pastors or evangelists,” it speaks of the *“doctrine of the apostles.”*

In Ephesians 3, Paul makes the following statement concerning the mystery, which had not been revealed in the ages past, *“... but now it is revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”* He even goes on to say that the household of God *“... is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”* (Eph. 2:20)

According to the Word of God, the apostles bear a great responsibility for the universal Church; likewise do the elders for the local assemblies. When a Bible question arose, the apostles and elders came together and stayed in the presence of God until they had received the answer. (Acts 15) After they went back to what the prophets had said, they could say, *“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...”* If we could only do the same and go back to the Scripture with every question, then the Holy Spirit would be sure to illumine us.

In Acts 13 we read: *“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers... As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them”.* These two men were already called of almighty God and now their calling was confirmed in the midst of the Church.

Time and space does not permit me to go into all aspects of the five-fold ministry. May God grant that all who are ordained by God would work in the same unity as we find in the early Church. Only then will the same blessings and the same effect be witnessed, for the same power of the Holy Spirit will be demonstrated through the Body of Christ.

### **The Elders in a Local Church**

The Holy Scripture informs us of the responsibility and the duty of the elders in the Church. Of Paul and Barnabas we read: *“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they*

*commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”* (Acts 14:23) Those men, who were ordained of God and used to establish local fellowships under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit ordained the elders in the local church. Paul writes to his co-worker in Christ: *“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee.”* (Tit. 1:5)

In the older translations, the word ‘bishop’ is used, which has the same meaning as elder or overseer. According to the Bible, a bishop is an elder responsible for a local assembly. A local church doesn’t necessarily have one elder, *“Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus, which are at Philippi with the bishops and deacons (elders or overseers).”* (Phil. 1:1)

The elders take care of the spiritual part in the local church and the deacons look after the external matters. As two of the seven men in Acts 6 responsible for the welfare of the people were later blessed of the Lord in a special way, so is it possible that every member in the Body of Christ can be used of God in his specific place.

In 1 Timothy 3:1, we read: *“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of an elder (bishop), he desireth a good work...”* Such a man must be apt to teach and comply with all scriptural requirements for that office. *“Let the elders that rule well, be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.”* (1 Tim. 5:17) This word should be taken seriously and put into practice, as it is part of God’s holy Word. People say so easy, “I love the prophet,” but at the same time find it difficult to recognise a God-ordained ministry in a local church. The Bible does not say that an apostle, prophet or evangelist should be esteemed of double honour, but it does say so about an elder. A local church can only be blessed of God, if the members are thankful for a God-ordained ministry. God has taken special care of the elders, as they are so easily attacked. *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witness.”* (1 Tim. 5:19)

How carelessly we say things in our days! If an accusation is brought up, there must be at least two or three witnesses, wholly independent of one another, to testify. If they matter discussed beforehand, they cannot be considered separate witnesses. In such a case they have formed a plot and show their motives and wrong objectives.

Paul admonishes his co-worker in Christ: *“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery”* – elders (1 Tim. 4: 13-14).

The elders in a local church also have another responsibility: *“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over Him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”* (James 5:14)

Today a one-man system is practised. People have long since deviated from the biblical guidelines. If we want the true blessings of Almighty God and the promises fulfilled, we must do things according to the Word. The Scripture does not teach that the believers of a local assembly should call an evangelist, prophet or apostle to pray for them, but that should be done by the elders. Paul, as a true man of God, was aware of that direct responsibility for the local Churches: *“from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.”* (Acts 20:17) It seems very strange that Paul called upon the elders and not the apostles, prophets and teachers. To the elders, he also had a very solemn warning: *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood.”* (v. 28)

We cannot ignore the guidelines given for the Church of Jesus Christ as recorded in the holy Word of God. Peter writes: *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind...”* (1. Pet. 5,1-2)

From this we see that even the great apostle considered himself to be an elder. He was also a pastor because Jesus Christ said to him: *“Feed My sheep! Feed My lambs!”* He did not only hold one of the five offices, he also had a responsibility in the local church. Peter did not only travel from place to place, he also had his church home. Any minister who has not proven himself in a local church will never be a blessing to any other congregation. An elder is to remain in a local church, but a man holding one of the five offices, even a pastor, is not bound to a local church, but can move from place to place, as his ministry is to be beneficial to the whole Body of Christ.

## Prayer

The Word of God says, *“Rejoice ever more, pray without ceasing! In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit, despise not prophesying, prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good.”* (1 Thess. 5:16-22)

The very breathing of our soul is kept up through the Spirit-inspired prayer. If individuals or a fellowship neglect the prayer life, they are cut off from the very presence of Almighty God, and will soon find themselves in a lukewarm, starchy and indifferent condition. We may retain the form of Godliness, but have actually cut ourselves off from the very lifeline connecting us with God. Bro. Branham said, **“You can sing too much, you can talk too much, you can shout too much, but you can never pray too much.”** He cried out, **“Where are the all-night prayer meetings?”** If the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, prayed fervently in the days of His flesh, (Heb. 5:7) how much more ought we to seek the face of God and bring our shortcomings and needs before Him!

Prayer is the personal fellowship with God. When we come before Him in our secret chamber with humility and supplication, we bring our burdens, petitions and personal needs before the throne of grace. When we assemble ourselves, we come together to worship and praise the Lord; we adore Him and magnify His Name. The Holy Spirit can move only in the right atmosphere of prayer. If the prayer in the meetings is being neglected, the Spirit of God withdraws, because He cannot have the preeminence. The Scripture gives us clear guidelines as to how we are to come into His presence, *“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”* (Ps. 100:4)

According to the Scripture, the sisters are also permitted to pray or to prophesy after the preaching of the Word during the period set aside for worship. The Spirit of God moves in all in accordance with the Word that was read and preached. Of course, it is possible to also worship the Lord in song, but as the singing has its place, so does the prayer during the service. Often, while the Spirit of the Lord moves during the prayer after the Word has gone forth, He shows visions and manifests all the other gifts according to the needs of the people. It is sad that some ministers misunderstand what the Apostle Paul said, *“Let your women keep silence in the churches, for it is not permitted unto them to speak...”* Some contend

that this Scripture implies that women should keep silent in the church altogether, but this only applies to preaching, teaching or interrupting by asking. According to 1 Corinthians 14: 29–32, a man holding an office of a prophet is permitted to interrupt the speaker if something is revealed to him. A sister could never do that. She is not permitted to speak. She is not restricted, however, when it comes to praying or prophesying during the worship part of the service. Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 11 of a woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head. The Bible does not contradict itself. The first portion of the chapter speaks about the praying and prophesying of sisters with their head covered, and in the latter part it says that the hair is given her for a covering. (vs. 15)

Bro. Branham preached strongly against women cutting their hair, yet somehow the idea is still prevalent amongst the believers, that it does not hurt to trim or cut the ends. The time has come, in which God's people must be set completely free from the things of the world.

Just recently, the Holy Spirit dealt with the young sisters in our local assembly about this matter in the following prophesy:

*“Behold, thus saith the Lord! My daughters, I have given thee ‘glory’ upon thy head, therefore take ye heed, that ye do not cut off from this ‘glory’, for I have given it unto thee, and I do not suffer you to trim it, for then another power will draw you away and is drawing you away already into another direction, and ye are turning your back upon My grace. Therefore turn around and repent and be ye cleansed from that spirit, for it is not of Me!”*

Any spirit that makes us act against God's holy Word is certainly pulling us in the wrong direction.

A woman is to be silent when it comes to preaching or teaching, but she can pray or prophesy. The prophet Joel spoke of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon sons and daughters alike. Peter referred to it on the day of Pentecost, *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit: and they shall prophesy... **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**”* If we consider ourselves to be in this group, the called out ones by Almighty God, **this promise belongs to us.** It is high time that we rightly divide the Word of Truth and apply it



correctly. Who dares to take away one word and add his own opinion to it instead?

If the part of the worship and the prayer is kept at a bare minimum during a service, the Spirit of God is unable to accomplish what He aims to do, and all that remains is a form of godliness without the demonstration of the power of God. Everyone, be it man or woman, who is baptised into the Body of Christ by His Holy Spirit, must find his rightful place and recognise his spiritual position and yield to the moving of God's Spirit.

**Each revival has had its prayer meetings and this last visitation of God will not be fruitful without them.**

### Spiritual Gifts

The apostle Paul writes: *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant... there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit ... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; To another the **working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of the spirits**; to another **diverse kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**: **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.**” (1. Cor. 12)*

*“Follow after charity (divine love), and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy ... But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort ... Even so ye forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church ... If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*

*... Let all things be done unto edifying ... Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1. Cor. 14)*

The operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit have come to be a subject of controversy within the ranks of the believers, therefore I feel it's appropriate to deal with this timely scriptural subject, as to *when and where* the gifts are to be used.

There are two possibilities we must consider: The believers with gifts come together for prayer before the service and if the Lord is so pleased, He can make known by divine revelation, that which is to take place during the meeting, etc. Then there is also another possibility: After the Word has gone forth, the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be in operation in the congregation **during** the time set aside for worship and prayer.

In my travels around the world, I have noticed that as soon as the gifts of the Spirit are mentioned, precious children of God are prone to believe that only the gift of speaking in tongues and the gift of prophecy fall under that jurisdiction. Have we asked ourselves the question, what condition the church would be in if the gifts had ceased? God's holy Word explicitly states that there are *nine gifts* and all these are in the true Church as long as she remains on earth.

During his ministry, Bro. Branham encountered many a difficulty because he was frequently interrupted by visitors from other churches, who had not been taught properly as to when and how the spiritual gifts were to be used. (Conduct and Order Pg. 883)

Sometimes he was still speaking, at other times the gift of discerning was in operation, when people in the congregation acted unwisely; they would stand up, speak in tongues, prophesy etc., and thereby disrupt the moving of the Spirit – the gift of discernment and prophetic ministry. Because of these interruptions, he was forced to lay down certain rules (Church Order). The people with spiritual gifts were to come into a room and wait upon the Lord. If God then gave a prophecy, it was to be written down and later read to the congregation.

Nothing will be happening out of order when the Holy Spirit speaks and acts. It will be corrective, helpful and for the up-building of the Church. How can the great Holy Spirit move upon someone and at the same time use another to interfere in what He is trying to accomplish? No, when he does something, all is well and in complete harmony.

The Bible tells us that the speaking in tongues is *a sign to the unbelievers*, but no unbelievers would be present to witness that gift in operation in a prayer room, wherein the people with gifts are to consecrate themselves to service. The gift of prophecy is primarily for the edification of the whole

Body of Christ. The Bible also says that the gift of prophecy will bring conviction upon the unbeliever. Those who have witnessed the going forth of a prophesy under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit know of the impact it has upon everyone. How then could the Scripture be fulfilled, if those gifts are to operate exclusively in a room, where only the people with gifts are present? *“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not, but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church (not just a few) come together in one place and all speak with tongues and there come in those that are unlearned or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy and there come in one that believeth not or one unlearned, he is convinced of all. He is judged of all and thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest and so falling down on his face he will worship God and report that God is in you of a truth.”* (1 Cor. 14: 22–25) If we permit the Spirit of God to lead, all things will go hand in hand, be it preaching from behind the pulpit or in the prayer of the congregation.

In our local fellowship, the Lord has led us to come in quietly, kneel down to pray or read the Bible and thus prepare ourselves for the service.

Recently we have had a series of meetings in our assembly, wherein many went through a time of a deep cleansing and purging. The Holy Spirit moved mightily in our midst; people were called out by name to be prayed for. On the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1976, the following prophecy came forth:

*“Behold, thus saith the Lord! My people, the vessels I have called, I have consecrated and have separated unto Myself, are not to serve Me separately and individually, but are to come together in quietness before the service, and consecrate themselves in a room, and remain before Me in quietness, so that I can use them one after the other according to My desire and My will. There are no more unclean vessels, and no t one vessel is there that is shattered and blemished; for I have taken the uncleanness of My people away, and I have prepared a vessel that can receive My blessings and channel them. Thus saith the HOLY ONE in thy midst!”*

If you have read this prophecy carefully, you noticed that God is the one who calls and chooses the vessel and then He alone will use it according to His will to accomplish His purpose.

We are grateful to Almighty God that He has blessed us and led us this far into the scriptural restoration. The brothers and the sisters now gather in separate rooms before the meeting to dedicate themselves, so that they are at the Lord’s disposal whenever He wants to use them. It is important for

the Church universal to know the will of God and be led by the Spirit. Far be it, that we become legalistic and dogmatic. The blessings of God only rest upon these things if they're done under full submission of the Holy Spirit in complete obedience to His leadings. If each child of God could yield to the Lord, each one would be used at the right time in the right way, as it pleases the Lord. Otherwise we end up with a dry theology, an empty prayer room and a dead church.

### **Spiritual Guidance**

*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”*  
(Rom. 8:14)

In the past years, I have been very hesitant to speak about the guidance of God in the ministry, lest anyone should have the impression, I am trying to promote my own cause. The time has come, in which I must speak openly, for the *time is at hand*, for God Himself is about to finish His work. This is not the work of a man, but the work of the Lord, and therefore the Church universal should be informed. I must emphasize here, that most of the time, when things of extraordinary significance were to be made known, a vision was shown before the prophecy came forth. Should you not understand, just commit all things to the Lord in prayer, for truly, we are treading on holy ground.

From the beginning of time, the Lord has had ways and means to communicate with His people by giving directions and guidance by His Spirit. The pattern for the New Testament Church was set on the day of Pentecost. The book of Acts records the moving of the Holy Spirit in the Church and the lives of individuals. The Lord spoke in dreams and visions. I am not speaking about imaginary visions, or dreams where spiritual significance is being ascribed to, I am speaking about genuine visions, dreams and prophecies given by Almighty God, proven true each time.

We had first met Bro. Branham in August 1955, while he was conducting meeting in Germany. Overwhelming joy filled our hearts when we recognised the visitation of God to His people through the remarkable and outstanding ministry of this humble man sent from God. We saw the great gift of discernment in operation in the meetings as well as in interviews. We witnessed outstanding healings and miracles, for truly, God was with him.

In the latter part of 1958, we took our stand for the God-given message, thus we were automatically separated from denominational bondage. Then God began to manifest His presence in our midst in a most wonderful way by giving visions and prophecies. We had never desired after those experiences; in fact, we didn't even know that such things still existed, but we took time to seek God fervently in prayer.

Many of you may have read my testimony in the two brochures, ONLY BELIEVE THE THUS SAITH THE LORD and THE IMPACT OF REVELATION. Only one time, on the 2nd of April, 1962, did the Lord speak to me with an audible voice, commissioning me to go from city to city to preach the Word.

In November 1965, the Lord began to give us directions as to the future work. During a prayer meeting, he showed the globe in a vision, first featuring the North American Continent. Just then a hand reached down, turned the globe and the European Continent came into plain view. By prophecy, the Lord spoke:

*"I am the God who has blessed and visited America. I am now about to turn My face towards this part of the earth to call out My elect."*

Soon after this, the Lord showed the remnant of a loaf of bread in a vision. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophecy came forth:

*"The time is at hand! Within a short time you shall receive the rest of the food that was stored up, and then the time of the giving out will be."*

We waited patiently and hid those things in our hearts. All was beyond our human understanding, but we were fully persuaded, whatever was shown by vision and spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, would surely come to pass.

Years later, the following statement Bro. Branham made, was brought to our attention:

"And you believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And I am here to make known His works and His way. I've been very reluctant on these things the fifteen, sixteen years I've been on the field, but there's an hour coming now when something is fixing to take place. ***The message will go to another nation, another people.*** But while we are in the presence of His holy Being ... the Church in America I believe is just about called out; she's finished..." (ACCEPTING GOD'S PROVIDED WAY AT THE END TIME – Phoenix, Ariz. 1963-01-15)

Time and again, the Lord has showed us visions and spoke by way of prophecy and later we would find it confirmed in one of the sermons of Bro. Branham.

I almost don't dare to speak about the supernatural experiences of New Year's Eve 1965/66. At that time, we did not know that Bro. Branham had gone to be with the Lord. During the night watch service, our congregation of 60 – 70 people was assembled to worship the Lord. The meeting was dry and discouraging, while we took time for testimonies and prayer. But suddenly, as we neared the midnight hour, the whole atmosphere changed. The Holy Spirit had come on the scene and began to move upon all present. A vision broke forth, it was shown how the angel of the Lord came in, holding the transparent golden cup of incense in his hand, to gather the prayers of the saints. (Rev. 8:3) He walked down each aisle, beginning with my mother, who never prayed publicly, but then her prayer gushed forth, as if a fountain had suddenly opened up. As the angel stopped before each person, that brother or sister began to pray spontaneously. We were all amazed. It was shown that the cup was filled to overflowing when the last one had prayed. Then the Spirit of God spoke forth:

*“Your prayers have come before My throne. I have heard your cry ... From now on I shall bless you and have My way with you.”*

The appearance of that heavenly visitor fitted the description Bro. Branham gives of the angel that came to him.

Amongst other things, it was said in a prophecy:

*“My servant, I have placed the sword of My Spirit into thy hand, and the whole country shall witness the impact thereof!”*

I must confess, I could not fully accept the prophecy at the time, because the thought came to me: “The sword of the spirit is placed into Bro. Branham's hand.” I was rather perplexed about all that happened during the watchnight service, until we received the news on Jan. 5 1966, that Bro. Branham had gone to be with the Lord. Although it seemed as if a whole world had collapsed, we were comforted by all the things the Lord had spoken and done, knowing that He is still on the throne and will complete His work.

In April 1966, two days prior to our departure for Bro. Branham's funeral in Jeffersonville, we were in a state of desperation. With other believers, we sought the face of God in a home here in Krefeld, Germany. The Lord was faithful again and showed a vision of an old country store. Perhaps

some oldtimers remember how the different items and groceries were kept in the drawers. The food was stored in perfect order. Suddenly brothers came in, pulled out one drawer after the other, tried to handle the food and in the process, spilt much of the contents. It was shown how they were actually treading upon the precious food they wanted to distribute. Rather carelessly they pulled out some more drawers with the same results. Within a short time, the whole store was a literal mess – a sad sight to behold. Then the Spirit confirmed that those brethren, who would try to handle the message, would be responsible for the confusing outcome brought about. This vision certainly needs no interpretation. The Spirit of God is grieved because of the things done with the message of the hour by those who try to do God a service without His will.

After the funeral in Jeffersonville, I knew the *time was at hand* for me to go from city to city to preach the Word of God and give out the spiritual food that had been stored in. The blessings of God have rested upon us and were manifested in the services in a mighty way. Time and space does not permit me to go into detail about the things the Lord showed and confirmed during the past seventeen years. Not only two or three, but hundreds of people are witnesses thereof.

It was on July 2, 1975, when the Lord showed the actual placing of the headstone in a vision and spoke to us by prophecy:

*“Behold, thus saith the Lord! My people, truly ye are the ones who have perceived the eagle message; ye are the ones who have heard the angel’s Word, My eternal Gospel, that was from before the foundation of the world. And behold, ye are the people, ye are the flock that will see the placing of the headstone. Ye shall come to perfection and ye shall see My finished work. Ye shall see the end of all things, because ye are My chosen Bride...”*

It is the desire of the Bride of Christ to see the placing of the headstone – Jesus Christ put into His proper position in His Church. She longs to come to perfection and to witness the completion of the work of God at the end of this age. Christ is the cornerstone, and He is the headstone. He must be placed into His Church as the First and the Last, Alpha and Omega, the All in All.

Looking back, we can only marvel at how God has arranged all things. We have received the promises; we knew the Lord would not stop His work after taking His servant. The ministry and the message would continue until the last of the elect is called out and brought in.

New Year's Eve 1975/76 was another great turning point. The Lord showed the globe in a vision again. The seven colours of the rainbow, blending in to form the light, struck the countries from the tip of Finland, covering Russia, the Middle East, Pakistan, India and the other Asian countries. In the prophecy that accompanied this vision, it was said:

*“Behold, thus saith the Lord! My people, I have spoken and I have performed it and I have had My messengers upon the earth at all times, and I, the God who has visited America, I have shown unto thee and I have spoken unto thee that I have also bestowed My grace upon thy continent, and have turned My face towards thee. And now, behold, the time-clock has moved on and I have turned the globe and My rays and My way and My revealed Word, illuminated sevenfold, now beams forth over Russia and the Asian countries and My Lion's cry is going forth there also. And there also will My elect hear My voice. I am the God who has spoken unto Abraham, who has called him a friend. And from My friend I do not hide My ways, but I let him know My thoughts. That is why I am speaking unto thee, My elect, and say unto thee, what I am going to do, so that ye may know My plan and My way and My actions also in thy time.”*

What a confirmation! Only a few months prior to this prophecy, the Lord has led us to have the Russian broadcast for the sole purpose of reaching the Bride of Christ there. We stand amazed at God's leadings. He shows things and then makes us part of His divine plan and guides our thoughts and steps in His perfect will.

On December 7, 1972, while in Douala, Africa, I had the privilege to see the Bride of the European nations. In this scene, I was standing on a platform, watching a crowd gather into the large auditorium. Then the picture changed. All had taken their seats, but yet there were empty chairs everywhere. Suddenly, an emergency exit door to my left opened and many brothers and sisters, young and old, came in and passed by the platform.

I greeted the first brother, of whom I knew by the Spirit to be the leader of the Russian group, with these words: “We have only waited for you to join us.” Just then a voice from above the platform spoke plainly and distinctly: *“This is the Bride from the Eastern European countries.”* It was such a heavenly atmosphere. When all had taken their seats, not a single place was empty. Suddenly a holy fear came upon all, we gazed towards heaven under great expectation for the Lord to take over from there.

We can only marvel at the leadings of Almighty God. The brother who speaks in the Russian broadcasts is an elder in our local church. He was



born in Russia and came to Germany with his family only through a miracle of God. No one in the Western Hemisphere can imagine the impact the message has upon God's children behind the Iron Curtain.

God has given us brothers and sisters from the different Eastern European countries, who speak their mother tongue as well as German, enabling them to translate the sermons. I have had the privilege to travel to those countries under difficult circumstances. The message has gone forth and reached many nations and tongues.

Just before the international ministers' meeting commenced here in April 1976 the Lord gave a vision and the following prophecy came forth:

*"Behold, thus saith the Lord! My people, be ye comforted in this hour, for this you should know that My grace is bestowed upon thee, and I have planned these hours and these days. My grace is bestowed upon thee and I am visiting thee again and again. Oh, that thine eyes were opened, that ye could see the bow of My covenant extended above this place at all times! And not only thus, but I am also here in the pillar of cloud and have settled Myself above the platform and I am with thee, and ye shall see My Glory. For behold, I have prepared the bridal adornment for My Bride, and soon ye shall receive it gloriously, for the hour is near. My children, be ye comforted!"*

While some are looking for spectacular things to happen, the Bridegroom has His way with the Bride. The final thing a bride does before the wedding takes place is that she prepares herself. All the other preparations are made ahead of time, but then she makes herself ready. *That time is at hand!* The Bride of Jesus Christ has heard His Word, is making herself ready, the finishing touches are being made, and she will be completely conformed into His blessed image. This is the hour of decision, wherein we must take our stand with Christ. The time has come for everyone to step into the place and position he belongs in.

On September 11, 1974, the Lord dealt with us when he showed a vision and gave a prophecy:

*"Behold, thus saith the Lord! My decision has fallen. The, 'Carmel hour' is drawing nigh, in which each one will step into the place he belongs in, and that which is to be at My right will stand there, and that which is not to be there, will go to the other side, and I shall make the decision come to pass, so that there will not be any intermingling amongst My people any longer, but whoever is holy, shall continue to be holy, and he that is unclean, shall continue to be unclean. Thus saith the Lord!"*

## To Reach Perfection ... Full Sanctification

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* (2 Cor. 7:1).

This Scripture is addressed to those who are called out: *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”* (2 Cor. 6: 17-18).

How many have become guilty of overlooking part of this verse! We were called out and separated from all things, which are not according to God’s holy Word. We have the greatest promise of all times, but now we are called upon to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit.

The Bible says: *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”* (Heb. 12:14-15). Much is being said about *rapturing faith* and *grace*, but it seems that the main thing on our part is being overlooked. *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Thess. 5:23).

It is wonderful to believe the message of the hour, but there are certain requirements to be met in order to see God. *“... we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”* (2 Thess. 2:13).

We know that Christ sanctified Himself for us, but sanctification must also become an experience with God in our lives. God requests this of us right now, that all our thoughts, ways and deeds, and our complete being and will be surrendered and put under subjection to the Word and Spirit of God.

Of Jesus Christ we read in Hebrews 10:7, *“Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”* He said, *“Not mine, but thy will be done.”* He has established the new covenant with us, *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* (Heb. 10: 10, 14).

Perfection in Jesus Christ cannot be reached without sanctification. That is why Paul speaks to the elect, who have come out from all things not in accordance with the Word, to be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, "*perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*"

How quickly it is said nowadays, "the perfect has come!", but do we comprehend what is included in this term from the spiritual viewpoint? If we have this hope within us to meet the Lord Jesus Christ, this verse applies: "*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure*" (1 John 3:4). In our Christian life, we must experience *justification, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit!*

In his sermon, IT IS THE RISING OF THE SUN, Bro. Branham tells of his mother's dream, in which she saw him standing near three steps. He was telling the people that they had to climb those three steps before they could walk the highway leading to the pearly gates. He then said:

"If that isn't my message exactly today: Justification, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost! Now I am saying that the person has to come by these three steps to be able to walk that highway..."

Just then, a lady with high heeled shoes tried to walk up that highway, disregarding Bro. Branham's admonition. She told the other women:

"Don't believe him, he's a madman. I'll show you I can be justified, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost and still walk like that!"

She started to run up that highway just as hard as she could run, and after a while the road got narrower and narrower. She started reeling, mincing like that, and off she went. And mother said, 'The most horrible screams that I ever heard in my life was that woman falling into those flames and smoke, going down, down like that...' She had obeyed everything but one word. Pentecostal women can be saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost and then fail. Absolutely!"

The importance of these three steps in the life and heart of every believer cannot be overemphasised. If those who have had an experience of *justification, sanctification and the baptism of Holy Ghost* can fail, how much more must all, who have not partaken thereof examine themselves, take inventory and seek God in prayer as never before? Your conversion is not complete without the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The disciples were sanctified by the Word, but they still had to receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He said,  
*“These signs shall follow them that believe ...”*

In times past, the Word of God was not made known in its fullness to the extent it is now. In all the ages, the Word of God could only be believed as far as it was preached, but in our day, we are held responsible for the fullness of God’s holy Word, as it was restored unto us.

In the recent weeks, the Lord has led us to come forward in our services for a time of prayer and worship after the Word has gone forth. Since the international ministers meeting in April, a drastic change has taken place in our services. Truly, we are experiencing the meaning of 1 Pet. 4:17, *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...”*

The Spirit of God showed individuals in a vision, called them by name, pointed out their particular problem, and bade them to come forward to be prayed for. As a result, the fear of God would come upon the whole congregation; many rushed to the front to be prayed for, others confessed their sins openly (Acts 19). We experienced a time of purification and sanctification because of His sacred presence in our midst.

At times, we were so aware of God Almighty being in our midst and under the impact of His holiness, we would take off our shoes, realising that we were standing on holy ground. The time has come for the Word of God to take effect in our lives. The Christ-like character must now come forth as we yield ourselves completely to Him in humility and contrition. Not only here, but all over the world, the Bride of Jesus Christ is called to enter His sanctuary as a holy people. The Lord has impressed upon us that it is not adequate to confess our sins before Him alone, but if we have sinned against one another, we must make it right and separate ourselves from all unrighteousness.

For years we have heard the message to be separated from all ungodliness and not to touch the unclean thing. Perhaps we have always given this only a spiritual application by coming out of the denominations, forfeiting all unscriptural doctrines. This certainly has its place, but right now, the time has come for a complete separation from all sin and unbelief, so that we can be placed into the direct presence of God Almighty without spot or wrinkle.

The mighty demonstration of the power of God amongst the Bride, that we’re all waiting for, can only take place once such a purification and sanctification have been accomplished amongst God’s children. We believe that the visions shown, and the prophecies given are not solely meant for

our local congregation, but God's children around the earth are included, as the Holy Spirit moves the Bride of Jesus Christ onto perfection.

What a consolation the prophecy of Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 1975 should be for God's children around the earth:

*“Behold, thus saith the Lord! ... Ye have heard My voice, have heard My Words, the revelation is before thee and not hid. No, I have opened up every Word to thee and now behold! Not only here have I erected My sanctuary, and not only do I dwell in this place, and not only here do I show the bow of My covenant, and not only here am I present with the pillar of fire, but truly, thus saith the Lord! In the individual heart that I have prepared for Myself, have I set up My sanctuary, and there is My throne, above which is the bow of My covenant, and everyone is included under it, thus saith the Holy One in thy midst, who has chosen thee and has taken each individual by the hand and has led him to the mountain of judgement. I have also erected the sanctuary in each single heart, and have given them My Glory. Thus speak I, the Holy One in thy midst, who has taken up His dwelling place in thine hearts, and will lead thee to perfection.”*

We shall never forget the impact of the service of April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1976, during the ministers' meetings. While we had gathered around the platform after the message had been delivered, the Holy Spirit came down upon the whole congregation. A sister sang a song in the Spirit in another tongue, and the interpretation in our language had the most beautiful and perfect rhyme, which of course cannot be translated verbally with the same effect. This is the text:

*“The Bride is being made ready now, in the most beautiful brightest splendour. I led them out of the deepest, darkest night.*

*I have led her to this place here,  
for this day, the Word of the hour is also being fulfilled.*

*My servant is filled with My Spirit and Word,  
and handles the sword of My Spirit continuously.*

*America did not recognise that My hand has turned in blessing  
towards this country, therefore let them so go.”*

Of course, God has His elect in every nation. As a whole, the USA has missed her chance during the great visitation. God's elect there, however, will continue on with the Lord. What was said by the Spirit points out, that God did not become a US citizen, but is the God of all flesh. We are

not looking towards America or any other country; we are looking towards heaven from whence cometh all our help. Amen!

### **On the Seat of Moses**

During a convention here in Europe in May 1975, while a brother was reciting one quotation after another from the sermons of Bro. Branham, the Spirit of God dealt with me in a very unusual way. While sitting on the platform, something began to speak within my heart, *“The scribes have set themselves in the seat of Moses!”* It became stronger and repeated. I didn’t know where this would lead to or what the application was to be. As it began to speak even more forcefully within in me, I just had to say: Lord, what does it mean? Just then I realised that the situation today can be paralleled to the days of Jesus.

Moses was the special prophet for Israel; the one who was privileged to see the pillar of fire. He had a direct commission from the Lord and received the Word for Israel. The scribes always referred to him and preached, “Moses said! Moses said! The prophet said! The prophet said!,” but they themselves had completely misunderstood what Moses, the prophet, had said. They had set themselves in Moses’ seat, but failed. They gained authority before the people by identifying themselves with his ministry by quoting God’s prophet. Thus they had a stronghold upon the people and misled them, although by it they had established their own ministry. They referred to the prophet of God, but they themselves did not enter into the kingdom and kept the people, who desired so, from going in. They were not placed into that position by a divine call, but had assumed the authority themselves. What did Jesus have to say about the scribes and the Pharisees in Matthew 23?

Sad to say, some go from place to place to speak about their experiences with the prophet, or relate the experiences the prophet had with the Lord, but cannot refer to a single experience they themselves had with God.

The Apostles and Prophets have spoken under the direction and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The things recorded in God’s holy Word are infallible because God Himself spoke through them. But to merely identify oneself with these men of God does not mean a thing. The Roman Catholic Church identifies herself with Peter because he received the keys to the kingdom. They openly attribute the same office to the pope, claiming him to be his successor and the vicar of Jesus Christ. If we draw a comparison

between the ministry of Peter and their teachings, we can clearly see that no such claim is justified.

Peter could say: *“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”* Can the pope say the same with all his silver and gold and the inestimable treasure of the Vatican?

The protestant churches often refer to Paul, the great teacher of the New Testament, but a mere identification with a man of God does not qualify anyone to assume a position in the Kingdom of God. All denominations and organisations have their founders etc., but there is no promise of a successor to Peter, Paul or even Bro. Branham. Anyone with a carnal and selfish motive can identify himself with such a man and claim additional revelations and thereby bring reproach upon Christ and His servants. Through carnality, believers of the end-time message have caused others to be cautious and almost afraid, lest they be accused of worshipping a man. The blame goes to those who preach a prophet instead of Christ. Quotations are misunderstood, misplaced and taken out of context without going back to the word. It has even gone so far that some have tried to conform the Word of God to their one-sided information.

When the Lord Jesus Christ expounded the Scripture to the disciples on their way to Emmaus and also the eleven after the resurrection, He placed great emphasis on **the whole Word of God**. He referred to *Moses* and also to *all the prophets* and *the Psalms* (Luke 24: 27, 44). When the enemy came to Jesus with the Word, He overcame him by saying, *“It is also written!”*

I believe the message cannot be separated from the Word of God. Micaiah compared his vision with Elijah’s prophecy. Daniel was enlightened while reading what Jeremiah had said. So must also we go back to the written Word and to what all the prophets and apostles have said. If the message would not be the Word, I would not have a thing to do with it.

It has been made so easy for many to set themselves in the seat of William Branham. They recite the quotes of their choice and try to impress those that may not know as much. How can every utterance Bro. Branham made be taken as a doctrine? Why are some trying to make the people believe that every statement he made was *“Thus Saith the Lord!”* Was he not entitled to give his personal conviction as Paul did when he said, *“This I say not the Lord!?”* (1 Cor. 7:12). He didn’t receive all revelations at once, but I’m not willing to throw the cherry pie away, just because I find a seed

in it. Let me give you an example: If Bro. Branham said, “Enoch walked with God for five hundred years,” I am at liberty to say, “Enoch only lived 365 years” (Gen. 5: 22–24).

Others have taken his statement about the racial uprising in the USA to be “Thus Saith the Lord!”, but what was his reaction when he asked, “Did you prophesy that there would be a million Negroes killed or did you just announce that this would be happening?” His reply is very enlightening:

“Now see, I have always asked you to be careful what you are listening to. There is so much of it that is just the **human side**, but always if there is something that goes forth, I will speak it, its thus saith the Lord! Even to visions or anything...see, you have to watch...” (HE CARES, DO YOU? 63-0721)

How easily this statement can be overlooked by those who are fanatic! And therein lies the whole problem. Those who take everything he said literally may even feel embarrassed at his own retort. Here in Europe it was preached that millions would be killed in a civil war in the USA because the prophet said so.

It was Bro. Branham’s impression that Martin Luther King would lead his people to the slaughter in the Civil Rights movement and freedom marches, yet King himself walked into a death trap and was assassinated.

He was also of the opinion that the democracy of the USA would not outlive the period of 200 years, but that was no prophecy; that was not “Thus Saith the Lord!” There is no need for anyone to allow a lying spirit to creep in and declare that the USA is not a democracy any longer because the President and the Vice President were appointed during the last term. Is this not considered to be as much a part of the constitution and political set up of a democracy as a general election?

Can you see where confusion is brought about? All is well if the plain Truth of God’s holy Word is preached, but the trouble begins with the unlawful private interpretations and the emphasis upon certain statements. Millions have witnessed the infallible ministry by the gift of discernment, but was Bro. Branham not entitled to voice his own opinion just like any other man? Of course he was God’s prophet and when he spoke in the Name of the Lord, it was “Thus Saith the Lord!” The danger lies therein that precious children of God have not been able to discern between his opinion and the things he said under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. If these precious people had taken God’s holy Word as their



criterion, they would not have gone off on a tangent and waste their time with things that have absolutely no value at all.

One of the most difficult tasks for me is to write the following few pages, because someone could misunderstand it and think that I'm trying to criticise the prophet. I loved this humble man of God with all my heart and have fully taken my stand for the message he brought. But these lines must be written with a sober approach against the confusion that has been brought about by carnally-minded people. Jesus said: "*Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.*" (John 5:39)

Throughout my travels I have heard the following phrases over and over again, "The prophet said! Malachi 4 said! Bro. Branham said so!" This is the reason I must give an example in order to illustrate something. I would like to ask you to give me the scriptural answer on *who the great multitude of Revelation 7 from verse 9 is.*

In his sermon, PHILADELPHIAN CHURCH AGE, Bro. Branham said:

**"They were also the Bride**, that was in the temple. Now let's go to Revelation 7. See, if they were the Bride ... **There is the Bride! ... how beautiful, the Bride! ... The Bride standing there with the Bridegroom.**"

In THE SEVENTH SEAL, he speaks about Revelation 7 from vs. 9 again:

"Now watch, after this now, here comes another group. Now the Bride is gone, we know that. But watch this group come up... First we start now with Israel and then we see the purged church, **not the Bride.** The purged church by tribulation, coming up here. Great number of real sincere hearts, that come up out of the great tribulation. Not the Church, it's gone on – the Bride! There is the church."

In August 1964 he said:

"Revelation 7 is where he saw the 144 000 sealed and after that he saw coming up, coming back was that great number, which no man could number, **which is the Bride.**"

Some go by what was said after the opening up of the Seals. In the HEBREW Questions, he also speaks of the great multitude:

**"... there is your Gentile Bride** coming up. All right, these stood before the Lamb. There is their Saviour! The Lamb. Note! The Lamb.

Grace... And God shall wipe all the tears from their eyes. There she is! **There is your Bride!**"

To go by the statement so commonly used, "Say what the prophet said!", does not solve the problem. I am now asking you, what did he say regarding this subject? I am just trying to show you that nothing is being accomplished by using quotes. The time is at hand to place the Word correctly and put line upon line, precept upon precept, until the subject is satisfactorily answered. It is irrelevant to know where the Bride is spoken of, but it is most important to strive to be part of her.

Paul was the messenger to the first church age, who had the Word for the hour, but there were also teachers and the other offices. He could say: "*But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*" (Gal. 1,11-12)

Paul knew he had received the Word of the Lord, yet the churches were established with all the different ministries. These did not discredit his special commission. No, all worked together in harmony as one recognised the necessity of the other. God uses one man as a vessel to make His Word and His will known, then it is channelled through the teaching ministry to enlighten the understanding of the believers.

### **The Start Counts**

If you set out wrong, you can never end right. If the point of origin is not in line, error will subsequently set in. With this in mind, I would like to take you, dear reader, to some of the things that have been taught since Bro. Branham has gone to be with the Lord, so that you can check it out with God's holy Word.

For instance, a prominent teacher of the Message spoke about Acts 3: 22-23 in his sermon entitled "A prophet from among your Brethren." The scriptural reference is: "*For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*"

This brother argues that Christ could not have been that prophet Moses spoke of in Deuteronomy 18:15 because Israel was not destroyed after they did not hear Jesus Christ.

Peter refers to Christ in Acts 3: 21–23, Stephen in Acts 7:37; Philip calling Nathanael says, we have found him, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth. John the Baptist was asked: “*Art thou that prophet? And he answered, no!*” Bro. Branham confirmed in his sermons that this was Jesus Christ.

The discrepancy came in when only the one word ‘*soul*’ was overlooked. The Bible doesn’t say that Israel or any other nation was to be destroyed, it simply says: “... *and it shall come to pass that every soul which shall not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from amongst the people.*” This brother maintains,

“Then Jesus Christ cannot come back until God raises up a prophet again like unto Moses, with the identical ministry of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles ... to be a man like Moses requires a birth and death on earth and a resurrection and a rapture like Jesus.”

Is he implying that the prophecy Moses gave was not entirely fulfilled in Jesus Christ?

“Now notice, I said, this did not take place in Jesus’ 3 ½ year ministry. This could not happen. What could not happen? The people being destroyed for not hearing Him. This could not happen.”

My dear brother, dear sister, can you see how easily error slips in when the Scripture is privately interpreted? There is a vast difference between the ‘destroying of the soul’ and the ‘destruction at the end of this age.’ “*Every soul that sinneth shall surely die.*” Sin is unbelief, unbelief in the Word of God.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was upon Mt. Transfiguration with three of His disciples, a voice spoke out of the cloud saying: “*HEAR YE HIM!*” In the Book of Revelation, *HIS voice is heard. HE is the ONE, who speaks as the ‘Son of man, the prophet’, HE was seen walking amidst the seven golden candlesticks* . The argument, “Israel was not destroyed after they did not hear the Lord Jesus Christ” means absolutely nothing to the spiritual mind. Every soul that does not hear the Lord Jesus Christ dies spiritually and will finally be destroyed. We believe Deuteronomy 18:15 was wholly fulfilled in Jesus Christ. If anyone, regardless of who he is, whether he was frequently mentioned on tape by Bro. Branham or be it someone unknown, misconstrues the Scripture, he is not only in danger, but it is also blasphemous and misleading. I personally feel that a brother’s ministry is not necessarily authenticated simply because his name was mentioned on tape. Rather, that brother only bears a greater responsibility because of his

influence on this basis. What he says is often taken as the criterion instead of the Word of God.

I can only stress that we must forget our own imaginations and be delivered from all spiritual pride. God abhors any diversions from His holy Word.

Let me give you another example as to how easily a reference is given, perhaps unnoticed by some, yet disastrous if any significance is ascribed to it. In the book FOOTPRINTS IN THE SANDS OF TIME, the publisher asks the question in regard to Bro. Branham:

“Could he have been the one that apostle John said would, through preaching and prophesying, reveal all the mysteries held secret till this time?” (Rev. 10:1–7).

How can someone even imply that Revelation 10:1-6 could be anyone else but the Lord Jesus Christ? He alone is the Angel-Messenger of the covenant. (Mal. 3:1)

Another question asked is:

“... if this be so, was he also the prophet of Revelation 22 who refused to be worshipped? Yet, so great and glorious was his ministry that John recorded his revelations that should be revealed in the age.”

The first part of this statement is in the interrogative – a question. The second part is a positive statement. The fashion in which this is asked, implies that it is being believed. Such a question only sows confusion in the hearts and minds of God’s children. In Revelation 1:1 and Revelation 22:6 and 16, it is mentioned that the angel was sent to John on the Isle of Patmos. The Bible does not teach reincarnation. It is therefore absolutely impossible for anyone living in this generation to have been that angel.

We have been clearly informed of the scriptures concerning the prophetic ministry, but is it not the enemy who is using so-called Bible teachers to exalt Br. Branham? Why aren’t we satisfied with those Scriptures pertaining to his ministry? Of course, many sincere Christians with the fear of God in their hearts see and hear those things going on under the flag of the ‘End-time Message’ and do not want to have a thing to do with it. Who can blame them? May God open their eyes to the real revelation of His Word to ignore all the fanaticism and confusion, but rather look upon Jesus Christ. May all who truly love the Lord come to the full understanding of God’s plan and purpose in this late hour.

When John was about to worship the angel, he was told: “... *see thou do it not, for I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren, the prophets, and of them who keep the sayings of this book. Worship God!*” This Scripture indicates the angel must have been a prophet, but the terms ‘fellow-servant’ and of ‘thy brethren’ always refer to the Jews. Why try to delve into things that could cause others to be misled? Is it really that important to know who this angel messenger or prophet was? Wouldn’t it be wise for all of us to distance our selves from all unprofitable speculations?

God has sent His messenger to sow the seed of the Word; the enemy has followed with his interpretations. The time is at hand for you, dear friend, to choose between the true word or the counterfeits. May God grant you grace , to recognise the seriousness of your decision!

### **What about 1977**

Since the Lord Jesus Christ made the promise in John 14:3, “... *if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also,*” the true believers have waited for that great event. The disciples were told after the Master had been taken up in a cloud: “*This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven*” (Acts 1:11).

This has been the actual hope of the saints of God from the moment the promise was given. Paul concludes one of his epistles with the Aramaic word “Maranatha”, which means, “*Our Lord cometh!*” It was a common salutation amongst the believers in the first century, for the expectancy in them was so great that Paul writes: “... *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. ... and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...*” (1 Cor. 15: 51-52)

Perhaps Paul never thought for a moment that nearly 2000 years would elapse between the first and the second coming of Christ, for he included himself in 1 Thessalonians 4, “... *then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

Was Paul wrong because he expected this event and wrote about it? No! The Spirit of God is not bound to time limits. Things may be revealed and made known as though they were to take place within the imminent future. There is nothing wrong with expecting the fulfilment of God’s promises, but only if God’s time has come, things will take place. The

trouble begins once people start to set dates. There is something in the human being that desires to look beyond the curtain of time. Some have come to a shameful end and were disillusioned because they have set the time for the return of Jesus Christ. Our main concern should be to walk with God as Enoch did and set our lives in order. Not those who think they know the time, but those who are ready will go into the marriage supper of the Lamb (Matth. 25:10).

We were pleased when the book, THE EXPOSITION OF THE SEVEN CHURCH AGES came off the press in 1965. The tapes had been of tremendous blessing to us and we were certain, these messages in print would lay a firm foundation of the scriptural doctrines revealed in our generation. But then, while translating it into German, we realised that several points did not fully agree with the taped messages. With certain reservations in my heart, I had the book printed, but I placed the sole responsibility of its contents upon the editor. (May I add here that I did not omit anything in the German edition) The book has undeniably been a blessing to many.

In April 1966, I brought some points in question to the attention of our dearly beloved brother. I felt I owed it to the Lord and His people to correct at least the controversial statement regarding the year 1977. We published a circular letter in German and other European languages containing the three actual quotes of Bro. Branham made on the “Church Ages” tapes.

The statement in the book THE EXPOSITION OF THE SEVEN CHURCH AGES, Pg. 322 reads as follows:

“Based on these seven visions, along with the rapid changes which have swept the world in the last fifty years, I PREDICT (I do not prophesy) that these visions will have all come to pass by 1977. And though many may feel that this is an irresponsible statement in view of the fact that Jesus said that ‘no man knoweth the day nor the hour,’ I still maintain this prediction after thirty years because, Jesus did NOT say no man could know the year, month or week in which His coming was to be completed. So I repeat, I sincerely believe and maintain as a private student of the Word, along with Divine inspiration that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium.”

The verbal quotations of the three statements found on the tapes are:

**EPHESIAN CHURCH AGE** – “... And at 1906, the Laodicean Church Age set in, and I don’t know when it’ll end but I predict it’ll

be done by 1977. I predict, not the Lord told me, but I predict it according to a vision that was shown me years ago...”

**THYATIREAN CHURCH AGE** – “... I saw, looked like just stumps a burning; rocks, blown out; and the whole United States just looked bare, laying like that, as far as I could see where I was standing. And I said, I predict, according to the way time is moving, it’ll be sometime between this year 1933 and 1977. And it’ll have to squeeze awful hard to get through there.”

**LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE** – “We believe that the Laodicean church started in A.D. 1906. I predict ... Now remember, ‘predict’, especially you listening at the tape. I don’t say it will be, but predict that it will end by 1977, that the church will go completely into apostasy and she’ll be ousted out of the mouth of God. And the Second Coming of Christ, or the Rapture, might come anytime. Now, I could miss that a year, I can miss it twenty years, I could miss it a hundred years. I don’t know where it ... But I just predict that according to a vision He showed me...”

Things shown in a vision are “Thus Saith the Lord!”, but a prediction as to the time of their fulfilment cannot be given. The Church Age Book is written in the first person and it is widely believed that Bro. Branham is the author. Precious children of God don’t dare to question anything, lest they sin against the vindicated prophet. Perhaps some even look upon the book as being equal to, or even surpass the contents of the Bible.

Dear reader, I am certain the book has answered many a question that may have been on your heart; no doubt, it has been a blessing to many, but if we have any question about anything, are we not duty-bound to go back to the tapes if the things were actually attributed to Bro. Branham?

In His sermon, A MAN RUNNING FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD – Jeff. IN. 1965-02-17, Bro. Branham said:

“...And you know, you can preach a sermon; there’s one thing, and then write a book is another ... So I got Bro. V. to kind of help me with this and keep the line of the same thought and give it grammar ... And in that, I think our precious brother must’ve picked up a little extra inspiration somehow, and he said he was going to write a couple of books of his own off them like. And so he wrote one called, I believe, TWENTIETH CENTURY PROPHET and another one, LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE, I believe, or something like that ... And we hope you enjoy it. And if you do, shake Bro. V’s hand back

there and tell him how much you appreciate it. I've never read it myself. If I'd read them I might change my mind about that, so I'll try to read them this week while I've got a chance if I can."

Bro. Branham desired to have the grammar corrected, but also keep the same line of thought as to the doctrines taught on the tapes, but above all, have every point fully agree with God's holy Word.

Wouldn't it have been advisable for "Spoken Word Publications" to also correct the grammar of the sermons as they appear in print? Didn't the prophet say, "And you know, you can preach a sermon; there's one thing. And then write a book is another..."? At the time he preached this sermon, the Church Age Book was in print. "And then the Seven Church Ages have been finished ... and on print now." Bro. V's booklet the LAODICEAN CHURCH AGE, also containing the controversial paragraph regarding 1977, became part of the named book.

I believe the Church Ages and also the testimony of our dearly beloved Bro. S. Jackson, who says, "Bro. Branham told me, Seven Church Ages are, Thus Saith the Lord!" I also believe the testimonies of those who say they have read certain portions to him, but I must be at liberty to take all things back to the holy Scripture.

In addition to the quotations, I checked whatever Bro. Branham has said in regard to the year 1977. In all the available sources I had access to, I found that not one time did he say or imply that the world systems ought to terminate and the millennium be ushered in by 1977.

I wrote the dear brother, asking on which tape Bro. Branham had made the statement found in the Church Age Book. His reply of January 17, 1972 amongst other things was:

"I believe with the prophet that 1977 ought to wind it all up and put us in the millennium, but I don't say much about it".

Rather than allow Bro. Branham to be labelled a false prophet, I'd rather be criticised for making this correction. By now, time itself has disproven the statement. Because people were led into believing that 1977 ought to terminate the world systems and usher in the millennium, they have set dates for the return of Jesus Christ. At first, some allowed the period of seven years after the rapture, setting the date for the year 1970. When that time expired without the fulfilment of their predictions, new speculations were in the making, wherein the quotations about the three and a half year period were used to set the date 1973. Now that even this



span of time has expired, there is a silence on earth. No one, however, has had the courage to admit and correct the errors, perhaps hoping that it will soon be over anyway. What will be, if even the year 1977 comes and goes? Why don't we simply believe what the Scripture says; remain sober, make use of the time to take the Word of God to the ends of the earth and keep occupied until the Lord comes?

We are looking forward to the glorious return of Jesus Christ at any moment. Yet, there is no need for anyone to be sidetracked from the middle of the road and act irresponsibly. The second coming of the Lord will be right on schedule, just as His first coming was. God won't acknowledge our calculations anyhow, so let us remain sober, go about our daily business and be ready at any time.

In the year 1966, we were told by the brethren from the USA, that amongst other events, Bro. Branham was to have seen a calendar flipping its pages, stopping at the year 1977. Later it was published in the book entitled THE ACTS OF THE PROPHET. We didn't question this and believed what was said, and had 50, 000 copies of a brochure containing the calendar vision printed. The recorded tapes of these meetings were also sent to the German-speaking people everywhere.

In the years that followed, we were frequently questioned on which tape Bro. Branham mentioned such a vision, and no one was able to locate it. Bro. Green traced this incident back and found out that it had been a rumour. To my knowledge, he openly corrected it. We published a circular in German to clarify the issue. Shouldn't the same have been done in English with the statement about the termination of the world systems and the ushering in of the millennium by 1977 and the calendar vision? Sometimes even silence speaks.

I believe that the year 1977 will be a year of great significance, but I am not willing to go beyond that.

The visions Bro. Branham had in 1933 were "Thus Saith the Lord!" and will surely come to pass in God's time and season, but if we have a preconceived idea as to when, where and how things will take place, we'll definitely miss the mark. No man knoweth the day nor the hour of the return of Jesus Christ. Should we be here after 1977, the scoffers will certainly arise and take advantage of the situation to fulfil the Scripture, saying: *"Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* (2. Pet. 3) They'll knock on our doors and may even bring the Church Age

Book with them. In the past, time and again, believers had to correct themselves; otherwise they were corrected. If we neglect to do the it, it will surely come upon us. May God help us to receive correction. Even Bro. Branham has had to correct himself on some of his previous teachings, and so must we today.

Every minister has the right to his own convictions and his stand on the Word. I personally esteem every brother highly, even if he does see things from another viewpoint, but I believe no one should give the impression that Bro. Branham has said something he didn't say. With all respect to any brother, we are at liberty to 'check it all with the Word!'

I'd like to deal with another subject found in the Church Age Book, where we read:

“Now we do not need to guess about those who in the second resurrection are given life. We are told it is given to them on the grounds that they have been kind and good to the ‘Brethren.’” (SARDISEAN CHURCH AGE – page 278)

The scriptural reference given is Matthew 25: 31–46. But this Bible passage does not speak about the Bride at all, but of ‘the Brethren’ – the Jews. When Jesus Christ will make Himself known to the brethren as Joseph did in the Old Testament, it will be to the Jews. **One can only receive eternal life by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and not by any kind deeds.**

*“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”* (1 John 5:11–13). *“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”* (1 John 5:20).

A Bible subject speaks for itself: *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father ... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of*

*the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me...*" (Matth. 25:31–46).

This will take place after the wedding supper at the time of the ushering in of the millennial reign. The Lord Jesus Christ is not spoken of as a 'Judge' here, but as 'The King'. "... *Then shall the King say...*" (vs. 35). Please note that the nations, not individuals are gathered before Him. No books are opened here and neither is a resurrection mentioned here. He is spoken of as 'The King' in reference to the kingdom, which is nothing else but the thousands-year-reign. Those nations or individuals, who have taken up for the Jews in the time of their greatest trials and troubles will be rewarded then and be in the millennial reign. It does not say that they were born again or had received eternal life, it simply says: "*And these went into eternal life.*" (See Israel in Prophecy).

True believers do not receive eternal life at the judgement, but by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. If someone has done good to those who belong to the Church-Bride, that will not be enough for them to enter there. But those who helped the Jews in their time of greatest need and thus risked their lives will be rewarded by the Lord.

Had there been any other way than by the blood of Jesus Christ, He has died in vain.

### **The New Birth – Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Many are not clear on the 'new birth' and the 'baptism of the Holy Ghost.' It is not essential to know what Knox, Moody, Taylor or anyone else has said – God's Word is the ultimate.

In order to fully comprehend what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is, we must consider what the Old and the New Testament has to say about this subject. Unless we take the prophecy of Joel regarding this experience, we have not even laid the foundation. If we don't consider what Christ and the Apostles have had to say, we are not basing our faith upon the Word of God. What was the first thing Peter did after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? He went back to Joel's prophecy. He laid the foundation to let the people know what had taken place Scripturally.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, said in John 3: "... *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" Peter writes, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*" (1 Pet. 1:23) The Lord Jesus Christ was born by the

Spirit, was manifested in the flesh as the Son of God. Then the Holy Spirit descended upon Him from heaven, abiding upon Him (John 1:29–34), then put into service, fulfilling that which was written of Him and His ministry (Acts 10:37–38). Likewise must we be born of the incorruptible seed of God’s holy Word and accept Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, as our personal Saviour, acknowledging that the life is in the blood. That is why Christ, the Lamb of God, suffered and shed His blood to atone for our sins to reconcile us unto God and make a way for His life to come into us.

Bro. Branham speaks very plainly about this subject in his sermon, INFLUENCE ON ONE ANOTHER:

“Search the Scripture and see if it’s right! I told someone not long ago, they said, ‘Bro. Branham, I understand that you are ‘Jesus Only’. I said, ‘You understood wrong. I am not ‘Jesus Only’. He said, ‘Well, you baptise in Jesus’ Name!’ I said, ‘That doesn’t make me ‘Jesus Only.’ In the ‘Jesus Only’ doctrine, they baptise unto regeneration. I don’t believe in that. I don’t believe that as soon as you are baptised in Jesus’ Name, it remits your sins. I believe, Peter said, ‘Repent first!’ Turn around, you missed the mark. Go back! Repent and then show it to the world that you’ve been baptised. *I don’t believe being born again is the baptism of the Holy Ghost.* It is not the baptism of the Holy Ghost, it’s being born again. We’re reborn by the blood. I mean, the life cell comes from the blood. You’re baptised by the Holy Ghost into the Body, but you’re born by the blood. Absolutely! You’re born by the blood of your father. I’m born again by the blood of my Father – of Christ.”

The same Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, bringing about the new birth and also gives us power for service. The Holy Spirit is also the anointing and the seal: “*Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who has also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts*” (2 Cor. 1:21–22).

Many may be anointed, but only the elect are sealed with the Holy Spirit: “*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ... In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise*” (Eph. 1: 4, 13).

The overcomers in every age are the elect, who will be at the wedding supper in Glory. They are the ones who hear the promised Word of Truth, they believe it and walk therein, and the Holy Spirit leads them into all

Truth. They are the children of promise and inherit all that God has promised to His own. Therefore: “... *Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption*” (Eph. 4:30). “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father*” (Rom. 8:14-15).

Just as the natural birth requires a seed, so does the spiritual birth require the seed of God’s holy Word. Wherever the true Word has been planted, the Holy Spirit is present to bring it to life. “*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour*” (Tit. 3:5–6).

The promise to receive the Holy Spirit is given to every believer. Just before the ascension, the Lord Jesus said: “*Ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high*” (Luke 24:48–49).

After He gave the great commission, He promised to endue us with power from on High: “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, unto the uttermost part of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

You may ask: ‘How will I know whether I have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?’ It becomes outwardly evident, once the Holy Spirit has taken abode in us. We bear the same fruit and have the same results as are recorded in the Book of Acts. One thing is certain: Just as those who were baptised with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost knew that they had received it, so must we have a supernatural experience in our day. Let’s not have any differences come up amongst us whether it is to be one, two or three experiences – let all our experiences line up with God’s Word. A Christian will not only long for the bare minimum of experiences with God, he will long for the moving of the Holy Spirit in his life daily.

Bro. Branham summarised it well:

“... when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you then have the new birth. When you believe on the Lord, you receive a new thought, a new life, but it isn’t the baptism of the Holy Ghost. See? You’ve got the new birth when you believe, you’ve got eternal life. It’s a gift of God that’s given to you through sovereign grace by accepting the gift that God is giving to you. See? “He that heareth My words and

believeth on Him that sent Me, hath eternal life,” – has everlasting life; that’s the new birth, you’re converted. It means you’re turned around.

But the baptism of the Holy Spirit puts you into the body of Christ, subject to the gifts for service. It doesn’t make you any more of a Christian, it just puts you into the body of gifts. See? “Now, by one Spirit...” (1 Cor. 12), we’re all baptised into one body. Now, says Paul, there are different gifts, and in this body are nine spiritual gifts ... You have to be baptised into the body, to possess one of these gifts. They come with the Body. But now, as far as having eternal life and being a Christian, you are a Christian the moment you believe. Now, that’s not make-believe, that’s truly believe on the Lord Jesus and accept Him as your personal Saviour; you are born again right there and have eternal life. God come into you.” (HEBREW BOOK, Part 2)

A true child of God will seek His face until his life is conformed to God’s Word and he receives the manifestations of the Spirit according to the promise. Paul writes about the nine spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 & 14. How should every Christian yearn for all experiences God has in store for us! Then there is no debating necessary, a deep peace of God and assurance comes into our heart as His Spirit gives witness to our spirit, that we are the sons of God. The time is at hand to earnestly seek God and pray that He renew us by the Holy Spirit, make us a new creature in Christ Jesus and fill us with the Holy Ghost. This is the only way for the sons and daughters of God to be manifested in the last days.

The three experiences: **Justification, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit** make the new birth complete. Then when the Lord is about to do something, He has His chosen vessels to be used in His time and season. One must be careful, however, that we do not use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but on the contrary, the Holy Spirit must use us and manifest the very ministry of Jesus Christ through the various gifts.

Bro. Branham preached about the moving of the Holy Spirit in the Church of the living God:

“The Church was established on the day of Pentecost, and if God is infinite and cannot change ... His Church must remain as it was at the beginning. Do you admit that? The Church must ever remain the same as it was. But man has cankered with it, put their own interpretations in it. Don’t you ever try to interpret the Word of God!

Say just what it says! I don't care what it is. Just line up with it. That's all. Don't change the Word! The Bible says that the Scripture is not of any private interpretation. You have no right to say these things. We just have to read it and say exactly what it says and believe it the same way ... I want you to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once delivered to the saints. Don't ever let that faith drop! And the faith of the saints was not in creeds, not in denominations, not in church buildings, not in associations, but it was in the presence of the living God. They had faith to heal the sick, cast out devils, do miracles, all the great promises that Jesus made, the first Church held on to that. It was the life line.

Listen here! Listen close to what I want to tell you! The ever presence of the living God is the life line of any church or any bunch of people, the ever presence of the living God to perform and to do and to act and to live with the people, as He did at the beginning. If the presence of the living God brought 'The Pentecost' with power, with signs, with wonders, brought a people so full of the Glory of God, they shouted and spoke with other languages, and went as martyrs for the faith, let's earnestly contend for the faith, until death shall set us free ... that's what the Church is. If it's going to be a white Church, born again without spot, without wrinkle, it's got to be woven with the same kind of fibre that it started off with on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Ghost experience burning within them.

Now we take our churches today. Look at us! Look at our Pentecostal people! Look at our Baptist people, our Presbyterians, Nazarenes, Pilgrim Holiness and the Branham Tabernacle! All of us, we are guilty of not earnestly contending for 'The Faith'. A little fuss can come up in the church, in the Branham Tabernacle – I am home, I can talk about you now – and they will form a little clique.

I believe there is a real genuine gift of the Holy Ghost, and we earnestly contend for that. Right! We believe it. Saints speak with tongues. You say, "I don't believe in divine healing." I don't believe in fanaticism, but we do believe there is a God that heals the sick and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. I have seen so-called discernment I don't believe in, but I know that there is a discerning Spirit of God; the gift of knowledge, that calls and speaks and it's perfect every time. We're earnestly contending for that Faith that

was once delivered to the saints.” (PALMERWORM, LOCUST, CANCERWORM, CATERPILLAR 1959-08-23)

The Bible tells us what happened when the early church was filled with the Holy Spirit, “... *they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind , and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” (Acts 2:1-4).

The Bible does not say that cloven eyes or ears appeared, but cloven tongues as of fire. This brings us to the acknowledgement of the righteous judgement of Almighty God upon our sinful nature. The human tongue cannot be tamed in the natural, because it is kindled by the fire of hell itself, full of deadly poison (James 3:3–8).

As children of God, we are to be put into the service of the Almighty. Before we can proclaim the great works of God, the tongue must be cleansed by the Holy Fire of God. Then the anointing comes down and we are placed positionally into Christ and the Church.

A two-fold miracle took place on the day of Pentecost. One happened to those who spoke with other tongues, as they were filled with the Holy Ghost, “... *and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*”, the other amongst those who were gathered and were ordained to eternal life, “*Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.*”

Whoever receives the same experience will have the same results. The supernatural manifestation of God’s presence will be evident among us now as in the Bible days. “*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions...*”

Dear friend! With the End-time Message, we have not by-passed Pentecost, we must go through Pentecost. We have not by-passed sanctification, we have gone through it and have gone on from there, the Spirit of Truth leading us into more Truth. May it become a burden to all of us to seek God, not a sensation, but a real Bible experience to make us ready for the rapture. In a true Bible Church, all the gifts and fruits of the Spirit are manifested in the scriptural order. May our lamps be trimmed and our



vessels filled with the power of the Holy Ghost. If the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in our mortal bodies, He will quicken them.

Bro. Branham said (RESTORATION OF THE BRIDE TREE, Jeff. IN. 1962-04-22):

“First line: *Justification, Sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Ghost*, then the **coming of the Cap**. What is it? That Holy Ghost bunch being honed out, so that it can fit with the same ministry that He had when He went away; that when He comes back it’ll catch the whole thing in the Rapture, where *they’re justified, sanctified, and have received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost*. **That pyramid will stand again! The house of God will live again! The Tree of Life is growing again!**”

### The Seven Thunders

*“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire: And he had in His hand a little book open: and He set His right foot upon the sea, and His left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.”* (Rev. 10:1-3)

Let us bear in mind that according to this Scripture, the seven thunders utter their voices when Lord Jesus Christ sets His feet upon this earth. This cannot take place before He has met His Bride in the air for the rapture. The Scripture cannot be broken, neither can it be misplaced. We are told by the great Apostle, *“... Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* (2 Tim. 4:3-4)

We can only preach the written Word of God. Unless something is written and is part of God’s holy Word, it cannot be preached. At the beginning of the Book of Revelation we are told, *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”*

Dear Friend! We are not held responsible for the things that are not written, neither are we asked to read that which is not written, the

blessing is pronounced upon those who read, hear and keep those things which are written. Because Revelation 10:7 is frequently used in reference to the last Church Age messenger, it seems to have been taken for granted that verses 1–6 are in the same connection.

If we take a close look at the Word of God, we can see that there are two sets of ‘seven angels’. The first group: The seven stars in the right hand of the Lord, the seven messengers to the seven Churches – the Gentile dispensation. The second group: *“And I saw seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets”*. Just as the mystery of God is finished under the sounding of the last angel-messenger with the Bride of Christ, so the mystery of Christ with the Jews will be finished at the announcement of the seventh angel blowing the seventh trumpet according to Revelation 11:15.

We understand that a prophetic Scripture can have a two-fold application. Paul, with his prophetic insight gave the challenge, when he described the latter days, wherein people would not endure sound doctrine and heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, turning away from the Truth unto fables.

Never before have the tactics of the enemy been as shrewd and his craftiness so cunningly concealed as in these days. As in the Garden of Eden, so does he stir up a curiosity in the heart of many a sincere Christian today. Adam and Eve enjoyed the blessings of God, but were forbidden to partake of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Then the serpent persuaded Eve to get away from behind her only defence and protection, the ‘Spoken Word’. So is it today. God has revealed all of His Word that we are to know. If we only strive to have our lives measure up to what has been revealed, we could be sure to make it. The enemy, however, is doing his utmost to lure some away to the tree of knowledge.

John was forbidden to write what the seven thunders uttered. Bro. Branham was not permitted to speak about them, but what is Satan doing? He gets behind the pulpit and causes precious people to be led astray. Dear Friend, can’t you see the trail of the serpent which can be traced from Genesis to the end, hiding under the interpretation of the original Word? Oh, it sounds good! But unless the enemy is exposed and his tricks are brought to light, he will do great damage. At no other time has there been division to such an extent, where preachers give the impression or even threaten their congregation unless they accept their new revelation, they would not be in the rapture.

Currently, a new doctrine, “The Revelation of the Seven Thunders” is being propagated, causing division amongst God’s people. I am not attacking anyone’s ministry, I love my brethren with all my heart, but I owe it to the Lord to take all things back to His Word. Various scripture passages and quotes are misused to back their new teaching.

These brethren claim that the purpose of the ‘Revelation of the Seven Thunders’ is now accomplished to call the Bride of Jesus Christ together and give her rapturing faith. The scriptural text to support their theory is found in 2 Peter 1, “... *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**; and to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness** and to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

These seven virtues are declared to be the seven thunders coming forth from our lives. May I ask here: How can these seven virtues be mysteries? Aren’t they plainly identified? Haven’t they been the portion of all true believers, through whom the characteristics of Jesus Christ were revealed?

Bro. Branham used the text from 2. Peter 1 in his sermon entitled THE STATURE OF A PERFECT MAN. Why didn’t he give any thought or hint that these seven virtues are to be thundered out from our lives? How can anyone take the same Scripture and make it say something it doesn’t say? Why play with words? Let us take heed to the serious admonition Peter gives, “*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*” (vs. 10)

Let us turn to the Book of Revelation, where the Scripture speaks of ‘thunders’ on at least seven different occasions. The first one is found in chapter 4, “*And out of the throne proceeded **lightnings** and **thundering** and voices...*”

During the Seven Church Ages, the Lord was seen walking amidst the seven golden candlesticks, but here He is shown on the throne. Lightnings, voices and thunders speak of judgement – the mercy-seat will turn into the judgement-seat.

The second time *thundering* is spoken of is found in chapter 6:1, “*And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.*”

We fully understand that seven thunders accompanied the opening of the Seven Seals to draw the attention to the revelation thereof. A thunder, in such a case, speaks of the voice of God. But the seven thunders of Revelation 10 utter their voices in a completely different connection at a later time.

Chapter 8 also records a *thundering*. “*And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and **thunderings**, and **lightnings**, and an earthquake.*” (Rev. 8:3–5)

This can only take place during the time of the great tribulation. Without doubt, the saints spoken of here are the Jews saved under the ministry of the two prophets.

Let us read the text in question “*And I saw another mighty Angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire: And He had in His hand a little book open: and He set His right foot upon sea, and His left foot on the earth. And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when He had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the Angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up His hand to heaven, And swore by Him that liveth forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.*” (Rev. 10:1-6)

Bro. Branham’s statement is very enlightening:

“Let’s turn to Revelation 10 just a moment, so you’ll get an understanding before we get into it. Now, this is at the end-time, for listen: And I saw another mighty Angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head... If you’ll

notice, that's Christ, because He in the Old Testament was called the Angel of the Covenant, and HE's a Messenger to Israel. The Church has been raptured. Now... fixing to be raptured."

At the time the Angel of Revelation 10 sets His feet upon the land and the sea, the seven thunders utter their voices, and not before. The announcement is being made, that time shall be no more. The Gentile dispensation ends and God turns His face in favour towards the Jews.

The voices spoke whatever will take place at that time, but because it is not written, it cannot be preached. We have to be silent, where the Bible is silent, and speak where the Scripture speaks.

The fifth time *thundering* is mentioned is in Revelation 11:19, "*And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were **lightnings**, and voices and **thundering**, and an earthquake, and great hail.*"

This also indicates that it will take place during the time of the great tribulation.

The sixth and seventh time is in connection with the singing and rejoicing of the Redeemed. (Rev. 14:2-3 & 19:6) Please note that the Bride is at the wedding-supper at that time.

Now let us take a look at Revelation 10 once again in order to see the scriptural application, wherein those *seven consecutive thunders* utter their voices. We realise that it is Christ, the Angel of the Covenant, coming down from heaven. Neither the four living creatures, nor the twenty-four elders or any angels accompany the event. As Joseph in the Old Testament was all alone when he made himself known to his brethren, so will Christ make Himself known to **His brethren, the Jews**. Nor one time is the Lord spoken of as the 'Angel' in regard to the New Testament Church or the Bride, but only in connection with the Jews. The Jews are God's covenant people. (Rom. 9:4) When the Lord came down to speak to the children of Israel, the Scripture speaks of *thundering* and *lightnings* and about the "*voice of the trumpet*" (Ex. 19:16 & 20:18).

Dear reader, can you see that the Lord will come down as the 'Angel' or the 'Messenger of the covenant' after the rapture of the Bride? She will meet Him in the air, "*... the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*" (1 Thess. 4)

The rainbow above His head speaks of the covenant itself. God spoke to Noah and his sons, *“And I, behold, I establish My covenant with you, and with your seed after you ... And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations; I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of the covenant between Me and the earth ... And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant...”*

In the old Testament, the Lord appeared in the visible form of an Angel. Therefore He was called the ‘Angel of the Covenant’. That is how He appeared to the prophets and spoke to Moses on the mountain. *“This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the ‘Angel’ which spake to him in Mount Sinai...”* (Acts 7:38)

Jacob wrestled with God, he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord. (Hos. 12) When He appears on earth as the Angel of the Covenant, the seven thunders utter their voices. He then announces, *‘Time shall be no more!’* In Revelation 5 we read of the *sealed book* that was opened and all that pertained to the times of the Gentiles was made known unto us, but when He appears in Revelation 10, He comes down with the *open book* in His hand. It is apparent that a part in the book is for the Bride and another for the Jews.

Any prophetic subject has its roots in the Old Testament. The Prophet Daniel obviously speaks of the same event. *“How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen ... when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for time, times and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”* (Dan. 12)

Without a shadow of a doubt, Daniel spoke in reference to the Jews, his people. Please note the similarity between these two scriptures! *“.. and the Angel, which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth, lifted up His hand to heaven and sware by Him that liveth for ever and ever... that there should be time no longer.”*

The prophet Daniel speaks of a 3 ½ year period as a time, times and a half. This is being confirmed on different occasions. Such a definite space is never allotted to the Gentile Church or Bride at any time, so this can only refer to the Jews.

For further study, let us briefly look at the seals. We understand that the first four seals parallel the seven church ages and are announced by one of the four living creatures. The 24 elders and the four living creatures are shown before the throne. They are connected with the Church. The four horse riders in the first four seals, shown on a white, followed by red, black and pale horse, (the same rider on the different horses) is the anti-Christ in his four stages. Each colour marks an epoch. It began very innocently as a doctrine, but with the intention to conquer. Then it was crowned in the false prophet, who heads the anti-Christ system.

After the wedding supper, Christ is shown as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and on His head are many crowns (Rev. 19). After the marriage supper, He is shown coming down to tread the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God. His enemies are destroyed and His Kingdom established.

The fifth seal deals with the Jews and is partly fulfilled already – the rest will be during the persecution period. The sixth seal speaks of the great tribulation and describes the things taking place then. If you'll notice, some events of seals either run parallel or overlap.

The seventh seal is the end of all things. If anyone wishes to know what the sixth seal is all about, he cannot only read the first part of chapter 6:12, but must also take the following verses into consideration. The same applies to the other seals.

If you'll read the sixth seal closely, you will realise that the trumpets sounds under that seal, and the vials are poured out during the sixth trumpet. Revelation 10 is an interval between the sixth and the seventh trumpet and Revelation 7 is an interval between the sixth and seventh seal. All things run in perfect continuity and perfect order.

Just rest assured! All things will take place as God has ordained them. His Word infallibly declares that the seven thunders of Revelation 10 are not written. No one knows what the voices uttered, but we can be certain that all will come to pass. God has all things in His hands. There is no promise in God's Word for anyone to ever get the revelation of the seven thunders. I feel a deep sadness in my heart, for it appears to me that the so-called 'Revelation of the Seven Thunders' is a rather pathetic human attempt to bring down a revival. Why not wait until God does it in His time?

Wasn't Bro. Branham under the impression that he was to preach the trumpets, the vials etc., until the Holy Spirit told him that these things

were not even profitable for the Bride, as they dealt with the time allotted to the Jews? Our aim should be to get hold of the things that pertain to us.

I must emphasise Rev. 22:18 & 19 once again, *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in his book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

We are not to preach unwritten speculations. The stimulation caused by false revelation will only lead to a terrible disappointment. I don't mean to dart at any brother, but let me give you an example. The announcements of Rev. C., now heading the new teaching of the so-called revelation of the seven thunders, have not come to pass. The attention has been focused towards New York instead of heaven. Some are already disappointed and feel cheated. We are all waiting for the rapture and we're sure that God will fulfil every promise He made. I fully believe there will be revival for the Bride, but why should we encroach upon God's time and get ahead of Him? If we try to do that, we're sure to stagger into something that does not coincide with His Word. God has a definite plan and will not consider what we think or say.

This is exactly what has happened with some of the predictions made during the summer of 1976 in Europe, the USA and Canada, about the pope coming to Philadelphia for the great celebration. I quote:

“... Revelation 8:1 – the space of about ½ hour silence. A half hour in heaven. One day in heaven – a thousand years on earth. A half hour in heaven – about 1/48<sup>th</sup> of a day. Amen! Any mathematician can figure that out. That would be about twenty years ten months ... So we see, August this year the Roman pope is to come to Philadelphia, so we understand. He is to have communion here with 300,000 people, raise a platform 45ft. in the air, come out of a special place called the ‘spectrum’. Come into J.K Stadium here. Big thing they're going to have down here. Strange that W. Branham's tent vision, so we understand, was given about November 1955 sometime. Twenty years from Nov. 1955 to Nov. 1975 are twenty years. December 1975 – twenty years, one month. January 1976 to August '76 – eight months. About twenty years, nine months. Then what hour is it?”

How carnal can you get? God's Word explicitly states that the ‘half hour silence’ is in connection with the seventh seal. Such calculation is



incredible. No Apostle or Prophet has ever done it and to bring it in connection with the pope is absurd. The folly is already made known.

The brother continues:

“God knew when the pope would come here.”

What now? God suddenly change His mind? The pope did not even go to America.

“And that’s why he said them seven thunders, if the devil could get a hold of it, he could do great damage.”

May I ask you now: Did the Devil get a hold of the thunder mystery now, or who did he get a hold of?

Months ago, this brother made another prediction in regard to the two visions Bro. Branham had that are still outstanding:

“Just think of it, in the next few months, these two visions will come to pass! Thus Saith the Lord!”

A time element was given – a few months have come and gone! Dear friend, you judge for yourself.

*“And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”* (Deut. 18: 21-22)

All respects to the brother, but light has to be separated from darkness. If something is not written, it’s best to leave it alone, rather than read anything into it. We cannot play with the final words of our Lord in Revelation 22. Any reading between the lines, any adding to or taking away will bring God’s judgements down.

Why is it that those claiming one should only say what the prophet said, are saying many things he did not say. Yes, you frequently hear them shout, “Malachi 4 said so! The prophet said!”, but strangely enough, one can’t help but think, “Where did the prophet say that? Where is it written?” Have we not read what Bro. Branham stressed:

“Where do all these things come from that I’ve showed you? Where are they from? ... Here they are. They are in the Word of God. They are ‘Thus Saith the Lord!’ His promise ... all of you bear me record, witness this – that my commission is, ‘Stay with the Word.’ ...

What's the matter with all of you? Can't you understand the Word?  
You must understand it" (BLASPHEMOUS NAMES 1962-11-04M)

There is no in-between. As those who are inspired by the Holy Spirit will remain with the Word, so will the others be motivated by a strange spirit that brings about stimulation by interpretation, if you get away from the written Word of God. The terrible tragedy is that if a brother comes under such wrong influence, he seldom returns to the Truth again. His pride will cause him to fall from one delusion into another and he will become a victim of circumstances because of his desire for recognition. One cannot even go by healings, miracles or other signs attributed to such a ministry as a confirmation of that individual.

Dear friend! Let me admonish you once again. Stay with the Word and make your salvation sure with fear and trembling.

This last generation has been privileged to see and hear what prophets of old and the saints of the days gone by have longed to see. The great plan of God was bought into full view, yet there are still some things veiled in a mystery that the prophet was not permitted to speak about. Until God discloses them in His time, they will remain a total secret.

God has always given visions to His servants, either for personal guidance or of prophetic significance. These always slide right into the Word. Bro. Branham had both. He was able to say that not one of the many visions he had ever failed. Thus we can rest assured that all the things the Lord has shown to him will come to pass in the way He has ordained them. God is the only interpreter of His word and the visions He gives.

If only we had complete confidence in the Lord, we would fully trust Him to perform all things according to the plan of salvation. I have full confidence in the Lord to take care of His Word to perform it. Far be it that I should try to penetrate into the unknown; I'd rather concentrate upon the things that have been revealed, thanking God for the grace He has bestowed upon us. If someone feels he understands the tent vision, he can be sure that it is incorrect because it is a private interpretation. God alone is responsible for the fulfilment of what He has shown and said.

The same applies to the third pull. When Bro. Branham spoke about the three stages of his ministry, he classified them as the three pulls. The first two are clearly understood, but the third has become a topic of discussion and perhaps even confusion. He said:

“The first pull – healing. The second pull – prophesying. The third pull – the opening of the Word – the mysteries revealed. No more – there is no higher order to reveal the Word than prophets, but the only way the prophet can be vindicated is by the Word. And remember, the third pull was the opening of them seven seals to reveal the hidden truths that’s been sealed in the Word” (1965-07-26M)

In Sabino Canyon, the Lord told him:

“This is the third pull, and there are three great things that go with it ... I better stop here, I just feel checked not to say any more about it.”

If he was led to stop there and not go any further, who are we to go beyond this? I wonder how far some are planning to go. Maybe too far. The spirit of God will always stop where the Word stops. The final things, the finishing touches in the Bride will be just before the rapture takes place and no one will be able to blow a trumpet for himself. Be sure to walk humbly in the presence of God with great expectation.

Let me adjure you to stay with the Word! John was not permitted to write anything about the seventh seal nor what the seven thunders uttered. No doubt, there is a great surprise awaiting the Bride and also the Jews, all in their allotted time. If the plain teaching of God’s holy Word and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our theme, all other things will find their place in their season.

Bro Branham often used Old Testament types. One example he used frequently was that Joseph making himself known to his brethren paralleling Christ revealing Himself to the Jews. I quote:

“He dismissed his wife! She was in the palace when he made himself known to his brethren. And the Gentile Bride, the wife, after Jesus being rejected by His Own people, He has taken a Gentile Bride and will take Her from here to the palace to His Father’s House in Glory for the Wedding Supper and will slip back down to make Himself known to His brethren, the 144,000. There He stands! And remember, look at the symbols perfectly.” (FIRST SEAL – 1963-03-18)

While the Bride remains in the heavenly palace, Jesus Christ comes down (Rev. 10) and makes Himself known to His brethren the Jews, and they will look upon Him, “*And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the*

*inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem...*" (Zech. 12:10). I trust this scriptural exposition has been an eye-opener to you.

### **Israel in Prophecy!**

Israel's destiny was foretold in Deuteronomy 4:27-29, "*And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you... But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*"

Our generation has witnessed the gathering of the Jews from all over the earth into their homeland. The history of Israel was one of the saddest and most gruesome amongst the nations; the present is very serious, but their future will be glorious. 'Jacob's trouble' is not yet over. The same God who scattered them in His anger gathers them in His love. "... *Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock*" (Jer. 31:7-10).

We are living on the verge of time in which the Gentile dispensation is almost over and God will turn towards the Jews and the remnant of Israel will be saved. "*Isaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.*" (Rom. 9:27; Isa. 10:20-23)

As God has His way with the Church, He also has a plan and fulfils His purpose with Israel. Their history began with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their destiny was foretold by Moses and all the prophets. "*As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes*" (Rom. 11:28).

Amongst those millions of Jews who have returned to their homeland, God has a chosen number of 144,000 (Rev. 7:3-8). These are not called sons and daughters, but servants, because they will get saved after the dispensation of the church ages. We are sons and daughters of God, but Israel was always called 'servant'. "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my*

*servant whom I have chosen...*” (Isa. 43:10). *“Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen”* (Isa. 44:1).

God has called individuals out of the Gentile nations, but has chosen Israel as a nation. *“Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation...”* (Deut. 4:34). The entire Bible testifies to the fact that Israel was chosen as a nation to be a witness of the One True God, as they had marvellously experienced His miracles, provision and power. *“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children ... Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her”* (Is. 66:8, 10). Every true Christian loves Israel, sympathises with them, and blesses them in the Name of the Lord.

We read of two prophets, who will minister in Jerusalem after the time of grace is over for the Gentiles (Rev. 11). Those Jews cannot and will not belong to a Gentile church.

If you'll turn with me to Revelation 7, we can read of the sealing of the 144,000. *“Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel...”* When this has taken place, they are shown with the Lamb on Mt. Zion. John testifies: *“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps”* (Rev. 14:1–2).

Revelation 19:1-7 tells us that the Bride is the one singing, playing and rejoicing in heaven. *“And after these things I heard a great voice of many people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God ... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready”*.

The 144, 000 who at that time gather on Mt. Zion will be the only ones on earth able to learn that song of redemption, as they are to join the Bride

when she comes down with the Groom after the marriage supper of the Lamb. The Bride of Christ is clean, untouched, undefiled, and therefore is called 'wise virgin.' So are the 144,000 called 'virgins'. The Bible says, *"They were not defiled with women."* Prophetically speaking, 'women' represent churches. Revelation 12 represents the true Church, Revelation 17 describes the false one.

The true Church is crowned with the doctrines of the twelve Apostles, standing on the foundation laid by the prophetic Word of the Old Testament, represented by the moon, covered with the sun of righteousness – the grace of God with all the blessings of Jesus Christ throughout the New Testament era.

The elect from the Jews will then follow the Lamb and recognise Jesus Christ as their Messiah and His shed blood for their atonement. They are the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb at that time, just as the Bride is the firstfruit from amongst all nations. They are included in the first resurrection although they will not partake of the marriage supper. Of them it is said *"And in their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault..."* This was already foretold by the prophet Zephaniah: *"I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid"* (Zeph 3:12-13).

According to the fifth seal, the Jews will go through a time of persecution (Rev. 6:9-11): *"And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"* (Rev. 12:17). The Bible does not say that the manchild or the woman kept the commandments of God, but the remnant, the Jews, did. They will be delivered into the hands of the anti-Christ for 3½ years and are overcome. *"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His Name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven"* (Rev 13:5-10).

The prophet Daniel speaks of the same time in reference to the Jews almost using the same words. *"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time"* (Dan. 7:25).

The question arises whether this can be the same period of 3½ years wherein the prophets minister to the Jews? *“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom”* (Dan. 7:21-22).

Immediately after it says that all kings under heaven were given to the people of the saints of the Most High. Please note! This takes place at the end of the tribulation, for the Bible says: *“But the judgment shall sit and they shall take away his dominion to consume and to destroy until the end”* (vs. 26). This brings us to Revelation 20 from verse 4: *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”*.

The Old Testament prophet already prophesied: *“Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army”* (Eze. 37)

If we follow the God-given order, we behold the most beautiful picture. The Bride of Jesus Christ is described in Rev. 19:1-10, and from verse 11, the Lord, the King of Kings, comes on a white horse and all the heavenly host follows Him on white horses. Right then, the final battle takes place and the enemies are destroyed. *“And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God”*.

After the wedding supper, the Lord finishes with all His enemies, who have gathered themselves against Jerusalem. He will slay the anti-Christ and those who are joined with him at that time. Once the Bride is raptured, the wicked one will be openly manifested, but when Christ returns, he will find his doom. *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming”* (2 Thess. 2:8). Please compare this with Revelation 19:15.

Immediately following, chapter 20 takes place. *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years”*.

According to Revelation 12, there was a war in heaven as soon as the man child was taken up, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. Please note that this is a promise given to the over-comers (Rev. 2:26-27).

The moment those overcomers are taken into Glory, the accuser of the brethren is cast down to earth. Christ takes His own up; Satan takes his down. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”* (Rev. 12:11).

While the redeemed rejoice in heaven, Satan is wroth on earth. And when the millennial reign is about to start, an angel comes down from heaven, takes a hold of Satan, binds him and casts him into the bottomless pit. *“... that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”* (Rev. 20:1-3)

John then testifies: *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God...”* (Rev. 20:4) Please note the similarity with the fifth seal. It speaks of the souls of those who were beheaded or slain. In the fifth seal it says, *“I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held”*. Can you see that Revelation 20:4 can only pertain to the Jews? – the Bible does not say that the graves were opened, neither does it speak about those who are alive to be translated, it does not say they were raptured, nor does it refer to the wedding supper. It simply says: *“...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”*. This takes place right after the marriage supper and makes the first resurrection complete, because the next verse says: *“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”*.

All those who raise before the ‘one-thousand-year- reign’ are classified under the first resurrection.

The prophet Ezekiel also spoke about the resurrection of the Old Testament saints at the first coming of Christ. *“O my people, I will open*



*your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel” (Eze. 37:12b). Matthew testifies: “And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared to many” (Matth. 27: 52-53).*

This, of course, has happened. There is no mentioning of graves opening in Revelation 20. The Jews are slain and live again and, according to God’s holy Word, they will also be in the one-thousand-year-reign.

To the amazement of all, even Israel’s enemies will finally surrender and join them in peace. *“And in that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.” (Isa. 19: 23-25)*

The prophet Zechariah speaks about the time that follows after that final battle. *“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16).*

Isaiah also speaks of that time: *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountains of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:2-3). Please see Micah 4:1-3).*

How does this coincide with the things that are taught that all will be destroyed except the Bride and the 144,000?

At the very end, as the millennium is ushered in, the Lord will judge between the nations. The judgment of individuals will be at the ‘White Throne’ after the millennial reign. *“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord” (vs. 4-5).*

The Lord Jesus Christ almost used the same words as Isaiah: *“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him; then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left”* (Matth. 25:31-33).

The ones the Lord puts to His right will be in the kingdom. *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren (not the Bride) ye have done it unto Me.”* (v. 40)

The Bible doesn't say: “And the Judge will answer them,” but, “The King”. The ones who have taken up for the Jews during the time of the greatest trouble will be rewarded and will be in the millennium.

Isaiah also deals with that space of time in chapters 65-66. *“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcase of men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be abhorring unto all flesh”* (66:23-24). Please compare this with Matthew 25:46. One group goes into eternal life; it does not say they were born again or have received eternal life. They are considered righteous and will have part in the millennial reign. The other group is considered wicked and goes into everlasting punishment.

That situation does not refer to the 'White Throne Judgment,' the new heaven or the new earth, but rather to the millennium, although the promise of the new heaven and the new earth is given in that connection.

Revelation 21 and 22 has often been misunderstood as well because of the promise of the new heaven and the new earth, thinking that description which follows pertains to the new heaven and the new earth. This is not the case at all. Right up to chapter 22, time and not eternity is dealt with. *“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh*

*abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*" (Rev. 21:24-27)

All the nation will be gathered and the kings of the earth will bring their valuables, *"Therefore thy gates shall be opened continually; they shall not be shut day or night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."* (Isa. 60:11-12) During the millennial reign, God and the Lamb are still mentioned. Once eternity has set in after the White Throne Judgment, God will be all in all (1 Cor. 15:28).

The description in Revelation 22 and Ezekiel 47 is identical: *"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine."* (Ez. 47:12)

*"In the midst of the street of it, and either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for healing of the nations"* (Rev. 22:2). As long as we still read of a time element such as 'months', eternity has not yet set in.

Some maintain that there will be a total annihilation. May I ask you, who the nations are that will be ruled over in the millennium? And how can Revelation 20:7-8 be fulfilled? *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations, which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea"*. As we understand the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16) is before the one-thousand-year-reign, and the one described as Gog and Magog right after the millennium.

After the White Throne Judgment, there will be the new heaven and the new earth. The sinners will have met their destiny. All who are not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire. That is the second death and we shall hear and see them no more.

Now the question arises about the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem and the Bride are identical *"And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the*

*tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*". Please note that the same words are written of the great number of Rev. 7: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (v.7b).

Chapter 21 speaks about the Bride – the wife, after the marriage supper. "... Come hither I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God" (Rev. 21: 9-10). The Bride takes her abode in the New Jerusalem. That is forever her dwelling place.

The LORD has ordered all things, be it for the Bride Church from the nations, the 144,000 elect from the Jews, and then with all the peoples who remain for the Millennial Kingdom. The LORD and His own will reign over them.

*"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever."* (Mic 4:1-5) We have already covered what happens after the Millennial Kingdom.

## **Conclusion**

The Holy Spirit is impressing upon me to stress Revelation 10:1-6 once again. In connection with the Church, the Lord is shown as the Lamb, taking the book and opening the seals. When He comes with the *open book* and sets His feet upon land and sea, He reveals Himself to the Jews, not as the Lamb, but as the Lion crying with a loud voice – the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Let us go back to the old testament prophets once again, *“They shall walk after the Lord: He shall **roar**, like a lion: when he shall **roar**, then the children (of Israel) shall tremble.”* (Hos. 11:10) *“The Lord also shall **roar** out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem: and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”* (Joel 3:16) *“... the Lord will **roar** from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem...”* (Amos 1:2)

*“Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall **roar** from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.”* (Jer 25:30-31)

Scripture upon Scripture could be added to satisfactorily answer Revelation 10:1-6. The enemy usually takes one Scripture and twists it, but anyone led of God’s Spirit will take as many Scriptures as possible dealing with the same subject. Then there is no need to guess, for it is the “Thus Saith the Lord!” of His Word. It seems He has permitted some statements to be misused by those who are unstable in the Word for their own destruction. Nothing happens without a purpose.

In conclusion, let us review some points. The events of Revelation 19 and 20 can be looked upon in chronological order and will take place as set forth there. Firstly, the Bride will be raptured and the marriage supper will take place. At the same time, the 144,000 are sealed on earth. Thereafter, the Lord returns from the wedding supper and fights the armies, which have gathered against Jerusalem. Then Satan is bound and those Jews slain will live again and be in the kingdom, the one-thousand-year-reign.

Dear Friends! May I suggest you scrutinize every statement I made and thoroughly compare this brochure with the quotations. Please check quote against quote! Compare the one made in regards to Revelation 20:4 with the quote in reference to the time after the rapture.

“And during that time, those two prophets will rise on the scene and all the 144,000. Then what will take place? then the mark of the beast of Revelation 13 will set in... And what will take place then? the mark of the beast will come in, that no man can buy or sell except him, that has the mark of the beast. Thank God, the Church

will be enjoying the great 3½ years in Glory. We won't have to go through that."

May I ask you: How can the Bride be beheaded for not taking the mark of the beast, if that mark will set in after the rapture has taken place? Please read the following statement for further enlightenment!:

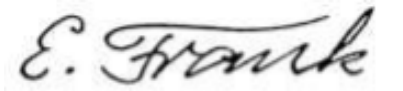
"But in Revelation 12:7-9, Satan the spirit, the devil, which is up there, now, accuser of our brethren, all right; all right; the Church is taken up and Satan is cast out. When the Church goes up, Satan comes down. The Satan incarnates himself in the anti-Christ and is called the Beast. Then in Revelation 13, he sets the Mark down."  
(1963-03-18)

Dear brother, dear sister, can you see why we must give all diligence to search the Scripture? I've got no thought or doctrine to defend, I'm only responsible to defend God's Word. What I have said here, I would have said in the presence of all the apostles and prophets. Don't altogether rely on quotes because they can so easily be taken out of context. Where you may find one, someone else may find two to contradict yours.

Let us love one another with the fervent love of God. I sincerely ask for forgiveness if I have hurt anyone. You have a perfect right to see things the way you do.

May this exposition have granted you a deeper understanding of the Word of God, not an intellectual conception, but may it have brought about a deep appreciation for what He has done.

By His Commission



*E. Frank*

---