

# Covenants # 1

August 27, 1989

Gracious Heavenly Father, we are so glad that we have the knowledge of an end-time revelation of Your Presence, this same Presence that was spoken of to Mary by the angel Gabriel that all things are possible with the Presence of God. And we know the great possibility now, at this time, is that Your children -- who in themselves, Lord, are ...?... you to the human instrument that carries the soul and the spirit-given, that was not of You but allowed of You, Lord, conceived in sin, shaped in iniquity but none-the-less sheep gone astray. And to think that by Grace, Lord, through the power of the Blood, ...[declared]?... the way for You, Lord, the Holy Spirit, to raise the dead and to change our mortal frames. That is really what we're singing about, that all things are possible now that You're here. That death is already put to one side, not thoroughly destroyed yet as it shall be in the Lake of Fire. But it has been overcome, Lord, for the interim period and there should be people who will not die.

Lord, help us to realize that, in our studies this morning. And may it be that we shall so concentrate upon Your Word of this hour, that other thoughts shall depart -- there shall be no other thinking. And out of it shall come forth the words of our mouth, Lord, and the actions of our lives. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen. You may be seated.

1. Now, I want to just talk about Covenants this morning. And we know that for two services we've been thinking about and talking about "the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant" with the emphasis, of course, on that covenant was that it was actually a will. And its legality depended upon the death of the testator before it could actually be put into force. Which, we know, referred to the death of God Himself by the Eternal Spirit when Jesus offered himself.

Now, this "everlasting covenant", spoken of by Paul, which was in Heb 13:20-21, is of course the great covenant of grace, and embodies and supercedes all other covenants, because all others are actually a part of it as God and His people look forward to the shedding of the Blood, the bringing forth of Life from that death. And we look back upon it. But, of course, we have the richer experience from it.

2. Now, this great covenant of grace, I say, embodies and supercedes, then, all other covenants because it is based on the Life of the shed Blood of the Testator. And, of course, He is risen to put it into effect, which is the only time in history that a testator ever came back to become the executor of his own will in order to ensure the heirs of not just the immutability of the will but the literal fulfilling of that same will in the lives of the people who were, at that particular time, there to enjoy it.

So, if you just begin to think of what is your particular time, and understand grace, you will notice and know positively that the testator is here in order to see that you absolutely receive what is in the will as an heir of God, an heir of grace, as an inheritor of the promises.

3. Now, having dealt with that, it's perhaps good to study the various covenants that are set forth in the Word. For, most of them -- if not every single one -- is a type or has a bearing on the end-time, especially since we know the Book of Redemption has been opened. Now, I know that, there again, we may say, "What is all in the Book of Redemption?" Well, I never have made a study to find out. I've never catalogued any part of it. But all this Message that we are receiving is coming from the Book of Redemption because this is the end of the Holy Ghost outpouring that guarantees you by the baptism with the Holy Ghost, the redemption of the body. And so, therefore, a new chapter in the Book has been exposed before us which deals with, of course, resurrection, immortality and those other things.

So, since every covenant is based on the great covenant of grace -- and we're winding up, which we definitely are today -- all of these, then, have something to do we can learn about. And we'll be able to understand even more about what's going on today because there was a covenant, in the Word of God, that forbade man ... which part forbade man to go to the Tree of Life, but then later on he was allowed to do so, which is now.

4. So, we're going to look at some of these covenants -- not all of them. Now, to begin the study, we must immediately realize that the word 'covenant', as I have said, is not always a testament or a will, in the sense of Heb 13:20, where someone has to die in order to get the covenant or the will operative. Now, I'm going to use the dictionary meaning and also go to the Bible. And, I don't say that the dictionary meaning is perfect but it's not bad. Now, the dictionary says: "A covenant is a binding and solemn agreement made by two or more individuals or parties to do or not to do a specified thing. It is a compact". Now, if we take that as a definition, which I read up here about a covenant -- and it's a true definition, actually, according to the dictionary -- we realize that a covenant is basically a 'contract'. And a contract is a legal agreement, only if there is a mutual understanding by the various contracting persons (and this is called 'the merging of the minds') or there is no legal contract or covenant. That is the only way it is binding and solemn as an agreement.

5. Now, I know that you're thinking, "Well, that's theoretical, and that's very nice but it's a lot of hogwash, because a crooked lawyer would throw that into the dustbin so fast your head would swim -- make null-and-void anything that's written on paper". A crooked lawyer and a crooked judge and a crooked politician ... and none of them can make an honest decision because it's all in politics. But the actual fact of the matter is (in the basic understanding of our rights as citizens and what the law says): unless there is a definitive merging of the minds, there is now contract, there never was. So, therefore, it can be broken. Because, people assumed at that time it was binding. (See?) Now, you can only carry that so far, but it is what we know, here, by the dictionary. If fraud or duplicity or vague language has any intent in the procedure, the writing of that contract, it is not legal.

Now, I know that you'll never get the courts to accept that. There's too much money under the table. There's too much rot. There's too much everything ... you know. We're stuck. But that's what it should be. (See?) It cannot be enforced if such be the case. It opens it to litigation which the true court, on proving one person entered in illegally -- was coerced or in any way fooled -- the contract would be thrown out.

6. Now, let me take you to Ex 19:3-8 to give you an idea what we're talking about here.

- 3) And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;
- 4) Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

Now, notice what He did in the Exodus? He took them out of denomination to bring them right to Himself, the Presence of God. Why did you come out of Babylon? To enjoy the Presence of God. No more simply an anointing but the literal Presence, where the Pillar of Fire leads us into the Millennium ... "You have seen what I did".

- 5) Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant (See? Covenant), then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:
- 6) And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

- 7) And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.
- 8) And all the people answered together and said, All that the LORD hath spoken will we (enter into and agree to and) do ...

So, you see what we're talking about. A covenant is a contract [which] is based upon a mutual agreement. Now, before we go further, it might be well to look at the word 'covenant' in the light of Hebrew etymology. The basic word is 'bereeth' [1285], and its origin is found in various meanings of root words that, when compounded, express what a covenant means to those who enter into it:

7. #1) Well, strange to say, it comes from that word 'bara', [1254] which means 'to create'. It means 'to make or create'. So, therefore, the covenantors are going to start something among themselves that wasn't there previously, and enter into it as a new venture by which they are bound. That's what it means. Because, we're going to start something, we're going to start it together, and we're in this thing together. I can't pull out; you can't pull out. We're bound.

8. #2) It means 'cutting' as in 'rendering clear'. Now, I'm not going to read all of Gen 15: 1-21 because it's too long. It has to do ... well, I'm going to take you back to it. And I won't read all of it. But, it says here:

- (1) After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward (I'm everything to you).
- (2) And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?
- (3) And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.
- (4) And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.
- (5) And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Now, you notice as you read this, there is a covenant wherein Abraham carves up ... what all did he carve up? Okay ... he took a heifer, three years old; he took a goat, three years old; he took a ram; he took a turtle-dove; he took a pigeon. And he cut them to pieces. And he laid them out there. Kept the birds away. And many people say, "That is what it means to 'cut a covenant'. I think Bro. Branham at one time mentioned how that people use a covenant of salt. And I'm not sure, but what he followed the theologians and those Bible students who also talked about cutting, where two people would cut their fingers and then mingle the blood, and they become blood brothers. They even so further: they put a drop of blood (or whatever oozes out) into a glass of water, and each take a turn drinking it. And this is what they call 'cutting a covenant'.

9. Now, I'm going to be honest with you. I have no problem with this thought of the cutting of a covenant -- that word 'cutting' meaning in there that something has got to be cut -- because blood was shed, and Jesus Christ died upon the cross. But, frankly, I'm not stuck on it. For, what is spelled out here? The terms of the contractual word is what is spelled out! No contract, no covenant, no oath ... they would all be rendered meaningless even if the blood was shed, if you didn't specify what is to be set forth clearly as the binding agreement, of which blood is merely a token. See what I'm talking about?

So, I'm not, you know, putting the cutting on animals and people. Not saying it couldn't be. It's there. But, to me, that's not the big thing. See, the big thing is the word. And God stands behind His Word to perform it. And no matter what it takes for Him to stand behind His Word to perform it, even giving the Only-Begotten Son, He's going to do it. (See?)

Now, even if the blood validates it, the question is: What is validated? If the blood makes a way for it, what are you looking at? You see where people are so wrong in the last day? They talk about the Blood and don't know the first thing about the Word -- the Blood and the Word of the Covenant of this hour. No sir! There's something wrong with people. We don't want them in this church, I can tell you that! The promise of the Son is validated by any token that is accepted of God. And, you know, He took a token of the Blood. Now He's got a token of Spirit -- Himself. (Okay, never mind the cutting; we covered it.)

10. **#3)** It means "to render clear" ... render clear. That means, no ambiguous language. As Bro. Branham said, "God in simplicity". He interprets His Word by making it come to pass. He means just what He said. When He said it at that time, He meant it.

11. **#4)** It means "purity". Nothing between the lines. No chicanery, no duplicity -- there it is.

12. **#5)** It means "choosing". Both parties must be willing to enter into it.

That's what a covenant is, from the Hebrew. A covenant, then, can be called "a mutually binding contract whose origin is usually based upon mutually benefiting terms that are set forth in clarity and purity without coercion". Now, that's from the Bible. And that's from American law, British law, Roman law ... but doesn't work that way. But we're talking about the Bible. Okay?

Now, I have used the words "usually based upon mutual benefits" as referring to man-to-man. But in our case, it is God and man! Now, that's where we change ... not our horse in midstream, but we begin to hew right to the Word. (See?) Okay.

But in our case it is God and man. And though God does not benefit in terms of physical, as does man, He does benefit in the terms of worship and love. And it allows Him to proclaim and manifest His Godness as He desires. So, God covenants with man, with this purpose in mind. God enters into a contract or covenant with man with the sole purpose of giving man complete entrée (or entrance) into the enjoying entirely the fully revealed manifestation and manifested Kingdom of God and His goodness.

13. Now, you're going to find that God, every time He entered into a covenant or a contract, was never unto the negative (because man went into the negative). He always took the positive, which could bring the two forces together and make it cohesive. So, I want to say again:

"So, God covenants with man ... so, God's covenants that He has with man have this purpose in mind. God enters into a contract or covenant with man with the sole purpose of giving man complete entrée into the enjoying entirely the fully revealed and manifested Kingdom of God and His goodness".

That's what it is about: God becoming "All and in all", as we see from the Scripture we've been taking from many sermons that Bro. Branham brought us. Now ...

Thus, we see that promise ... promise and oath, are also forms of covenants, though they are one-sided. And they are only two-sided on the grounds that man is allowed to enter into it ... he [man] accepts it. And, of course, if he wasn't made in such a frame to accept it, he would turn it down flat.

14. Now, we're not talking about a free moral agency, like the Baptists and the Fundamentalists do. We're talking about the free moral agency such as Adam had. He was a son of God. He knew he was a son of God, and he had a choice. And he flipped a little bit, but he got back.

Now, every promise and every oath is made by a covenant-keeping God. And every covenant is a means whereby God can share of Himself as to what He is and does, with and for His sons and daughters. Every covenant. And you'll notice that. This is what we call (and I've discovered in Scripture and announced it to you as) the parallelism of Scripture -- the blessing and the cursing. And you notice that God always comes on with His strong side of the covenant. And He said, "If you listen to Me, if you believe Me, and you follow in the path that I have laid out, which is not a path that is denigrating, harmful or beyond you, you can share of Me and everything that I am and I have, and I'll especially go the limit and do everything within My omniscience and My omnipotence to give you all those things that I alone could figure for you. You could never figure them yourself".

Now, that's by oath and by promise. That's why they're covenants.

"Also, we can see that God's commandments are covenants. (God's commandments are covenants) Even if the commands are autocratic, it is a benevolent autocracy. For, God has clear plans and clearly stated what He intends to do, and now is bound to do that for His children, because they listen to Him and do His will, which is always based upon faith". (If you don't have faith, then He 'ain't gonna do it'.)

15. Now, to understand this, we're going to go to Genesis and see the beneficent commands of an autocratic God. And we'll go to Gen 1:26-31.

- (26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- (29) And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed: to you it shall be for meat.

Now, that's an absolute command. Okay ... Gen 2:7.

- (7) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
- (8) And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.
- (9) And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree ... (and so on)

And then in [verses] 15 and 17 ... you know, those two trees in there:

- (15) And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

- (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
- (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

16. Now, let's go to Genesis. Notice what God did there. Gen 12:1-4.

- (1) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
- (2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.
- (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
- (4) So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.
- (5) And Abram took Sarai his wife ... (and so on)

Now, what you're looking at there then, of course, [is] the thought of God's commands which are entirely beneficent, because they contain a promise.

Now, of course, there are other covenants that are completely one-sided, as was Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, which I read. He didn't come to them and say, "Now, look. I wonder if you would like to do this". Autocratically He said, "This is what you do". And that was the love of God, because they could not have thought of anything any better. It was perfect. God's Word is perfect. And in that Word is the love of God. And you never know the love of God until you're really filled with the Word and the obedience of faith that comes out of the Word.

17. Now, of course, there are other covenants that are completely one-sided, as was Genesis chapters 1 and 2. And we see it in Genesis 3, in the midst of evil. Now, let's take a look at this. Now, we see a one-sided covenant.

Now, let's look at Gen 3:14.

- (14) And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
- (15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- (16) Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.
- (17) And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee,

saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake, in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

- (18) Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;
- (19) In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

So, you can see there, that's a one-sided covenant -- God's Word. And that's the way it has been. There has been no change ever since. And you can see something of this in Deuteronomy 7.

- (6) For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.
- (7) The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:
- (8) But because the LORD loved you ...

Notice what it is? He set His love upon you because He loved you. "Well, I love the person because I love the person". Well, if that's a stupid remark, then God made a stupid remark. You're looking at sovereignty, is what you're looking at.

- (8) ... and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
- (9) Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;
- (10) And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.
- (11) Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.
- (12) Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he swore unto thy fathers:
- (13) And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee.
- (14) Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among thy cattle.

- (15) And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness (See, the whole thing is going to be clean and good) and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. (And so on ...)

18. Okay. What you're seeing here, now, is the fact that all Israel is not Israel. You're seeing those that stood with God, as in the days of Elijah. Elijah said, "Lord, I'm all by myself, and nobody but me". He said, "You're wrong. There are seven thousand that haven't bowed the knee"... out of maybe millions of people. So, you can see the covenant-working God. There is always someone in the covenant, because a covenant is no longer a covenant if there is only one person involved. So, as long as the Word of God endures, there are going to be people who endure with it.

And notice how the blessing was on the entire family of the earth -- the family of God, and the earth of God. Now, this (of course) is a perfect picture of what Paul spoke of in Gal 3:14-19.

- (14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- (15) Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

Now, that's law. That's Roman and British law right there ... and American law. But they won't do it. They will not follow the Bible. That's why America is doomed. See, one reason America stands above everything in the world ... a government is to supply courts of law that are just. And the minute your courts of law are no longer just, your nation is completely destroyed. You can say what you want. Because, that's exactly what government is all about. Not to tax you and to spend your money (like a bunch of idiots) but to mete out justice.

19. Now, you look at God's Word, here, brother/sister, and you'll see why America is doomed. You've got a handful of people that want it. The rest don't want it. (See?) They'll talk in tongues, but they don't want it. You think not? Come on.

- (16) Now, to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Now, then, it tells me here that God and Christ entered into a contract, about which you and I didn't have on thing to say. And that contract cannot fail. There is no way it is going to go down the drain.

- (17) And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ ...

Now, where was it confirmed? "Of God in Christ". Where was that? That would have to be on Mt. Sinai ... Not Sinai, but back there with Abraham. Now, here is the law, 400 years later, and the same God in Christ up there.

- (17) ... cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.
- (18) For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. (See?)
- (19) (Then what) serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.



Now, the original contract was not violated by the law 430 years later. All it did was bring the people to the knowledge of the necessity of the original contract. Yup! That's what it says right here -- schoolmaster, to bring you to Christ. The contract was God in Christ doing it for mankind.

See, what you're looking at: Adam never asked to get a human form. He should have had a theophanic form. He didn't ask to have the wife he got. So, therefore, God entered into the contract which cannot be broken concerning man, which is the seed that came forth. And though you say, "I didn't have any input", the contract is still there because the end is a nation of priests and kings unto God. And you couldn't have it as good, if you studied and wept and cried and coerced and tried everything else. You could never get what this is going to give us! (See?)

Now, this is good. We ought to know these things about some of these covenants, so-called. Because, they are covenants. (See?) Now, of course, this is a perfect picture, I say, of Galatians. Also of ... well, let me see.

20. Let me go back to Deuteronomy 7 before we go to Galatians again. (Just keep your finger there.) Deut 7:6-14.

- (6) For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: (Who made them that way?) the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.
- (7) The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, ... (See? Now, we read that.)

Okay. Let's go back to Galatians, now ... Gal 3:19-20.

- (19) (Therefore what) serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.
- (20) Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.
- (21) Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness (would) have been by the law.

So, now you've got, here, what we said all along is that, if you're dealing with two people and there is strife over any point of the contract (see) then, you've got to bring in a mediator -- a lawyer or a judge -- and he has got to set the thing right. Well, what happens here? God, Himself, steps in and sets things right. Because, man broke the contract. Listen, I'm going to tell you: you'll understand grace before this is all over. You know something? You never understand grace; you just keep learning about it.

21. It is further seen in Hebrews 9. Now, here's something else you had nothing to do with.

[Heb 9:]16-28.

- (16) For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.
- (17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. (Now, we went through that.)
- (18) Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

In other words, what comes forth under certain covenants (which is the 'will' type covenant, the testament) somebody has got to die. Now, look back there in the Garden of Eden. Adam got kicked out, and his wife with him. They brought forth children. They all began dying, from that point on. The heirs began dying plumb off. The testator hadn't died -- the One that did it all.

22. Now, so we see, here, this Blood of the covenant, the Everlasting covenant, cleans up the whole heaven and the whole earth -- we've read it. (See?) Now, we can truly see that the covenant-keeping God could only keep His Word through the Blood because of the way man did in his treatment of the Word of Almighty God. And this brings us right to the end-time of Heb 12: 24. That we are not approaching to Mt. Sinai. We're approaching Mt. Zion, and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant and the Blood of sprinkling "that speaketh better things than Abel".

Now, notice the word "new". That's what a covenant means -- something new. God has entered into something new. And the covenant that was new was: God was in Christ as His Own mediator, as His Own sacrificial lamb, as His Own testator, and dying in order to bring forth all these things that God has for us. Now, that's under covenants. And I know I didn't cover it too well, because I didn't want to take too much time. This could take hours and hours, and weeks and weeks on it.

Now, since we're talking about covenants -- and every single one has something for this hour -- we want to look at the covenants, starting at the very beginning of the Bible. And, of course, we're not going to take all of them. I'll just take a few this morning. [If] time runs out, I'll just quit it.

23. **#1)** We've already viewed it by reading about it. We read it in Gen 1:26-29. God made man in His image. Male and female ... created them. And He said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Just take over the earth. Run the whole thing". And in Gen 2:15-17, He laid down the conditions of remaining in the Garden of Eden.

Now, we recall that in Gen 1:26-29, there was no Scriptural test set forth as to obedience, with the exception of a work ethic. That's all they were given was a work ethic. And the work ethic was: "Everything here you see on the trees is good to eat. It's yours. Help yourself. Enjoy your life. Have dominion over the earth and everything that's in it. Prune the Garden, because it's to your advantage. I want to give you something to do". There was a work ethic involved, and that is all. And we know that to be true.

24. In Gen 3:22, we're going to look at it,

(22) And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life; and eat, and live for ever: (we're going to put him out of the Garden.)

Now, in this verse, there was no permanent forfeiture of Gen 1:26-29. He never said, "Boy, did you botch it! You'll never get what you had!" How could God tell a man that, and then take it back? He's an Indian-giver. He's not as nice as some people I know. Don't be ridiculous. He never took it back. He never took back that promise, that work ethic, and the beautiful conditions of the Garden. No way, shape, and form.

And in Gen 2:15-17, which were the same conditions, but there was now a warning and a command, still did not forfeit the original promise or word. (See?) No way, shape, and form. Only a certain condition had to be changed. Which most certainly would be changed after Gen 3:19 has run its course.

25. Gen 3:19,

(19) (Paraphrased) In the sweat of your face you're going to eat bread till you return to the ground. Out of it you're taken and ...?... you've got to go back ... until that condition is changed!

Do you follow what I'm saying? He never did say, "You can't have it". He never did take it away. He said, "You've got it, but now under a changed condition". And the changed condition couldn't take place until the last man went down in the grave. (See?) Now, what does that do?

26. That takes us to Job 19:25-27,

- (25) For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
- (26) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:
- (27) Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Is that what it says? That's what it says. So, Job understood what we're talking about this morning, which the majority of Christians haven't got a clue. [End of side One]

And also, Paul tells us something that is still based on Genesis: He said, "He cannot eat in this condition and live forever. He's got to go through a metamorphosis which is by way of dust to dust". Like Bro. Branham said that Jesus turned water into wine. He simply bypassed the water going to a grape seed and producing grapes which would bring wine. So, God will perform a metamorphosis. The Bible says so.

27. 1 Corinthians 1:

- (49) (For) As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.
- (50) [Paraphrased] We won't even die to get it. Though flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. (And flesh and blood cannot, but flesh and bone and spirit can.)
- (51) [Paraphrased] And I'm going to show you the mystery of metamorphosis ... (And the metamorphosis is brought about by the renewing of the mind.)

That's exactly what the Bible says in Romans 12. That's exactly why the Seventh Church Age repents (which is a change of mind). Don't let some stupid idiot bamboozle you that repentance is a feeling -- some feeling toward God that, "Oh, I've got to get right with God". Millions are saying that and they're turning down the Word. So, don't give us any of that junk! I almost used some much more colorful words, but I thought I'd better not. [Laughter] After all, I'm not Harry Truman. (I wasn't going to say that, anyway.)

There's a metamorphosis. (See?) He couldn't go to the Tree of Life because his mind was gone to Satan. Well, didn't Bro. Branham say that about Eve? And what did Paul say? "Your minds have gone to Satan. You've got another Jesus. You've got another spirit. You've got another gospel". My God, what more can go haywire! The brakes went on my car. The steering went out ... [Bro. Vayle fumbles with the microphone] What happened now? I just dropped the engine. [Laughter] What more can happen? Three things: another Jesus, another spirit, another word. He said, "It's your minds".

Now, the change in this hour of the covenant: "I will write My Word in your hearts and in your minds. I'm going to give you the Word that's going to get you back to the Tree of Life. And if you don't know what that is, I'll tell you ahead of time. It's the opening of the Seven Seals". That's where you got ... [Someone in the congregation says, "Amen. Praise God".] Yes, "Praise God", because that's exactly what it is. All right.

28. #2) This is the next covenant: This covenant, normally, would be the covenant given to Eve and Adam in Gen 3:15, but it's already covered by #1 except to say that the disruption in Gen 3:22-23 is totally overcome by Gen 3:15.

Now, notice the disruption: To dust you are. You are going to return. "Hey, man, you've got to go back there!" He wasn't talking to the soul. He was talking to the body, and the spirit that God allowed. And in [Gen]3:15.

(15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman (as to the beast), and thy seed and her seed; (It's going to bruise your head. It's going to bring you right down and take away your dominion which you have gotten over this people.)

And notice, it was a dominion through their flesh! He explains what it was to die. You're body goes back to dust. How, in the name of common sense, can a soul from God die?

Jesus screamed out, "God is not the god of the dead!"

Abraham's living. He brought him right forth. That must have been a 'smasheroozie'. You know, it would have been really great for ... do you think God missed a trick when He didn't let Jesus have a big parade and parade all those saints, that came out of the grave, down town and said, "Okay, Caiaphas, you big fat stupid big-mouth, you!"

And Abraham say, "Yes, you stupid idiot! This is me, Abraham, and my wife, Sarah. Are you going to be as kooked-up as the Philistines? I'm back!"

Didn't do it. Do you think He missed a trick? Oh, you say, "Bro. Vayle, I'd have done that."

Sure, you would have done that. I'd have done it, too, because we're idiots. [Laughter] Think it over. Here it is right here: It says the Seed is going to knock this fellow's head plumb off.

And now it says the other Fellow's heel is going to be bruised. What is the heel? It's a part of the foot. And that part of the foot, the heel, cushions you as you walk. Because, you don't walk on your toes, unless there is something wrong with you, or you're a ballet dancer. You've got to kind of walk on your heels. Most people, they say, "Well, you walk on the ball of your foot". Who walks on the ball of his foot? I go clumpity-clumpity- clump. And so do you.

29. In other words, Jesus wasn't cushioned. He took the full brunt of it. As mythology calls it, the "Achilles' Heel". He was wounded for our transgressions. The covenant by blood made every Word of God applicable to us no matter what that covenant is which God covenanted within Himself, for He raised His right hand and He swore by Himself, "Abraham, I'm going to do this, and you're going to love it!" Well, you say, "Now, hold it ... ain't going to love it for awhile". You go through a period where you would be kind of hurt; you would be kind of muffed and, you know ... giggled about it. But He said you're going to love it because it's going to work out just great.

30. Now, all these problems were totally overcome through Gen 3:15, as the seed brings forth the Old Testament Bride in Mt 28:1-2. Now, here is the Seed. And here he is dying upon the cross. And here he is coming out of the ground. So, here he is in Mt 28:1-2.

(1) In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

- (2) And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Okay, he was gone. Now, we go back to [Mt] 27:50-53.

- (50) Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.
- (51) And, behold, the vail of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;
- (52) And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,
- (53) And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Gen 3:15 rectified every condition from the garden of Eden. Now you see the seed of Abraham coming forth – the seed of God – through Adam. Now, today with the same covenant we're over here in 2 Cor 3:15.

31. Now, watch,

- (15) But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon (their minds or) their hearts
- (16) Nevertheless when it (the mind) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

Now watch,

- (17) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
- (18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord ...

The absolute correct assessment of God; the true revelation which they lost in the first Church Age. See, Paul said, "I'm going to tell you, you can't get this because you've already lost it. (2 Corinthians 11: tells them that.) Glory to glory ...

- (18) ... changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

He's telling you right here [that] as the Old Testament saints stepped [in] to the perfect image of the revelation of God in Christ in glorified bodies, back to eternity immortal, so these people would, but under a different circumstance. They wouldn't have to die. (See?) Changed to the assessment, because that's glory. What is God's assessment? What is His glory? Nobody knows unless He tells you! There's the Pillar of Fire. What does that mean? Scared the living day-lights out of you. Now, unless a prophet of God comes forth and tells you all about it, declares the words, you haven't got a clue. You've got a problem that's compounded because now you have met a supernatural. And you are really stuck now, because you couldn't even handle the natural. So you're shot. Paul said, "Listen. From assessment to assessment". Remember, the church fell away completely to the fourth church age. It started to come back. I want to diagram that for you someday. Show you how it really works [and] what's going on. It drives you out of your skull, thinking of these things.

32. Now, ... "by the Spirit of God". [2 Corinthians 4:]

- (1) Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
- (2) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty ... (There's your contract again!)

Paul said, "I'm making a covenant here with God, letting you know how it happens." The contract is a hundred percent. There's no deceit in it, no chicanery, no false-handling.

- (2) ... but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (By vindication)

And he said, "I'm going to tell you something flat, you people: [paraphrased]

- (3) ("If the gospel that I've preached is hid, it is hidden for one reason":
- (4) The god of this world has blinded your mind!)

Exactly what happened to Eve! Now, let the mind come back. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. And I'm here to be the great Teacher". Remember, the same Holy Spirit that brought the Word is here revealing the Word. And you can be a party to it. All you've got to do is listen. Now, he says, "There's where it lies". So, this is exactly what we see coming to ... now, in Rev 19:11-16, coming back with Him upon the earth, glorified. And that's based upon 1 Th 4:13-16, where He descends with the Shout. So, what have you got? You've got the Seed bruising the head and bringing down Satan's headship.

33. I feel pretty rotten at times ... in fact, most of the time. Then I'd get feeling rottener because I'd think about it. But do you know what? I could just be here waiting to kick Satan's gums in. Because, Jesus pulled his teeth out, and I want a crack at his gums. [Laughter] ... by the very fact I won't die. Oh, I'd live to spite him ... and oh yes, I'm ...[dirty enough]?... to want to spite some people I know, too.

Well, you say, "Bro. Vayle, I don't think you're really honest. You're just mean".

That's exactly right. I'm both honest and I'm mean. I never said I wasn't. Because, they don't believe we're going to have it. Because we're not all gommied up with what they're all gommied up with.

We dare to stand and say, "If I add a word, I've got the plagues. If I take away, my name goes off."

"Oh well, I-I-I ..."

Don't "I-I-I" me. Let me tell you something, brother/sister: I may go to hell from this pulpit this morning, and so may you. Don't sit here as though you're smug and smart and know something. And because you're what you are, you think you've got answers, or I've got answers. I'm not God and you're not God. But there is a Word that says something here at the end-time. And the prophet declared it, like Moses in the Exodus.

You don't dare add a word and you don't dare take away. Of course, there are some that sit around and think, "Well, if I just hear the tapes I've got it all". You ought to hear some of the things they're saying.

34. **#3)** The third covenant, we might consider the Noahic covenant ... (yeah, we've got a little time left).

We go to Genesis 9. And you can see where you can hit covenant after covenant. And every single one so far, comes right down to this hour, because blood was shed in Eden, outside of Eden ... in Eden, actually, blood was shed. And the blood of a son was shed outside of Eden. If he had been in Eden, it never would have been shed. Gen 9:7.

- (7) And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

- (8) And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him saying,
- (9) And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;
- (10) And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth ... (and so on, and so on)
- (11) And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.
- (12) 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:
- (13) I do set my bow in the cloud (the rainbow), and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

Now notice, the rainbow merely pointed to the Word. And let me tell you something: if the Blood doesn't point to the Word, you haven't got any blood that's doing one thing for you. Because, this is the condemnation ...?... of the world: "that men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil". And anything that makes manifest is light. So, therefore, brother/sister, whatever points to the Word is a light to a Light. Oh, that's so understandable, it's marvelous.

35. Okay, we keep reading [Genesis 9:]

- (13) (I set my bow as a token ... guide you to My Word.)
- (14) And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:
- (15) And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.
- (16) And the bow shall be in the cloud: and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.
- (17) And God said unto Noah. This is the token of the covenant ... (Didn't say it was the covenant. He said it's the token of the covenant), which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

Why did God give you the Holy Ghost? To bring you the Word. See, that's why we deal with the Word. Everything is Word, Word, Word, Word, Word. If it isn't, don't talk to me about something else. I'm not interested! A covenant can have every trapping, every embellishment. Tell me what's in the contract! What does that mean? Don't just sit there and yatter ... yammer. Tell me something! And they can't do it.

Pentecostals talk in tongues, froth at the mouth, and that does it. ...?... Do what you want. Skin a fellow and go all the way to the bank, talking in tongues. Go ahead. Tell me about that [Bro. Vayle points to ?]. Let me know about it. "Well ...[Bro. Vayle mimics someone stammering]". Well, it's the devil, isn't it? "Oh, yah that's right". According to a lot of people in this message, they wouldn't even believe that was blasphemy. They're just too nice.

This covenant that I read emphatically states that the earth will never again be diminished as it is today, which is 5/6 water and 1/6 land mass. For Rev 21:1-2 says, ... "There is no more sea". But it does not say that God will not purge it completely. Just not destroy it, and put it to a disadvantage after the purging. No.

36. Let's go to 2 Peter, and read about it. 2 Pet 3:10-14.

- (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- (11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved (go to one common form), what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

I'm going to be the same kind of person ...[that]?... all the rest are. My body gets dissolved, I go to have a body like His. New heavens and a new earth. Everything is wonderful.

- (12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
- (13) Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- (14) Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (And so on.)

So, there you are. The rainbow token of the covenant spells the future glory of Rev 4:1-3.

37. Now, let's look at Rev 4:1-3 and really grasp what is going on in the Bible.

- (1) After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- (2) And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.
- (3) And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Now, Rev 5:1-10.

- (1) And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne (with the rainbow over His head. He took) a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.
- (2) And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ("Who's going to open the book? Who is worthy? Let him loose the seals.)



- (3) And no man in heaven (no man) in earth, (no man) under the earth (bringing forth in the resurrection. Nobody) was able to open the book, (or even) to look thereon. (He said, “There’s no use even [at the thing]?... I can’t try that”.) looking...
- (4) And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to (even) look thereon.

Why bother even looking at it?

You say, “Why don’t you try and lift this fifty pounds here.”

Don’t be a stupid idiot. I can only lift five pounds.

“Well, come and look”.

Are you nuts? Why do you look at it?

“Well, just look at it.”

Oh, don’t you understand anything? I will not even go near to look at it because it’s out of my realm entirely. But you would be surprised that people try to open this Book. Boy, oh boy...

- (5) And one of the elders saith unto me: Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.
- (6) And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- (7) And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne (and had the rainbow over His head)
- (8) And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.
- (9) And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
- (10) And (thou) hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

38. Then what happened? “And I saw the One sitting on the throne with the crowns and the rainbow over his head, come down in Rev 10:1.

- (1) ... his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire (The rainbow on His head; clothed with the cloud)
- (2) And (in his hand he had the ) little book open ...

- (3) And (He) cried with a loud voice ... (And as He did, seven mysteries – great thunders – thundered forth.)

And John was going to write. And He said, “No. No way. You can’t do it. Seal it up. But I’ll tell you what: at the end-time someone can do it.

- (7) But in the days of the voice of the seventh (messenger), when he shall begin to sound ... (and you can learn a lot about this in the book of Exodus, brother/sister. It happened on Mt. Sinai. You can learn a lot what happens, in the Exodus.)

The Seventh Church Age messenger is on earth and God begins to deal in order to help us. Now, listen: at this particular time, then, brother/sister, the rainbow covenant is manifested before us for He has come down. And according to 1 Corinthians 15, He is upon earth in order to subdue all things unto Himself and put everything under the feet of Jesus Christ, which even death will be put under there. He will put the Church in order. And out of the church order is going to come a resurrection and a complete new order according to 1 Corinthians 15. And according to Romans 8, the great change starts when man gets his change.

39. Now, let’s go over here to Rev 21:1-8.

- (1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- (2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- (3) 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.
- (4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- (5) And he that sat upon the throne (with a rainbow over His head) said, Behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.
- (6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
- (7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
- (8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Now, what you’re looking at here, then, is the very thing we talked about. The very One with a rainbow over His head has come on down, and He is the covenant God Who said, “This rainbow is the positive identity I will never destroy the earth with water”. Therefore, it is the positive identity [that] He will reconstitute the earth by fire. That’s right. He just said, “I won’t bring it down by water”. He is going to remold it. He is

going to recreate it, absolutely the same as He recreates our body from dust, or gases and ashes, or merely gases. The original building blocks are completely, absolutely changed. And we stand there with all of those things that God can give us.

40. Now, what we saw here, then, we saw back in the days of Noah. We saw the earth being cleansed, because the end of all flesh had come up. And God took a part of the human race, the one last man genetically human, with his three sons, their wives, and Noah's wife, and started over.

But you notice, the earth was going to go into disrepair again. And He said, "This time I'm not going to diminish it, but I'm going to bring it back -- complete earth without all that water". That's why Bro. Branham said, "When the water begins to explode, it will shoot up thousands of miles in the air". It's going to completely explode with atomic reaction. Bring it back with a beautiful orb. And people are going to stand upon it. And let me tell you, brother/sister, and let's get this flat: He said, "I'm going to put my bow in a cloud". And cloud -- without it being clouds of glory or a specific reference -- refers to bad times. You'll find mostly it refers to bad times. Storm clouds -- problems.

But He said, "Now, at the end-time, when it's all over, I'm going to have the covenant of Noah". "As it was in the days of Noah" -- they were buying and they were selling. They entered the Ark. But what was there? Let's ask a question, now: Do you think for one minute that that rainbow came into existence as though it wasn't in existence before? I believe it was the first time they saw it, that's all. Everything is always present with God. There's no future; there's no back. You were just waiting for God to bring it forth out of His treasure. And He set it there. And today we have the rainbow of God's promise. They were coming back on an earth, which is going to be what? -- 25,000 miles around, 8,000 right through the core. And it's not going to have 1/6 land. It's going to be 6/6 land with the river of Life ... I don't know what is going to be here, but I can tell you one thing: His promise was "all of you are going to come back, and you're going to rule in nature; you're going to have all of this". And the covenant that God gave with that rainbow stands right today, and it's in our midst.

41. Now, I'm going to close with this thought: Bro. Branham had a revelation. He went out one morning, misty out there, trying to hunt squirrels. And he looked up over the hill, and he saw this rainbow -- three rainbows -- with great arc, right down to earth. And he said, "I can see that's supernatural. I'm going to go over to it". He got so far, and God said, "You're not going to come any further". And the Voice said to him, "The Jehovah of the Old Testament is Jesus of the New", revealing to him the reality of one God. And if there is one God, brother/sister, there is one Word. That's why Jesus said, "I don't say these words; the Father in me says them. I don't do these works, the Father in me does them".

There is one God. We might have tried to explain it. I'm through trying to explain it. I just bring out what Bro. Branham said. You do what you want with it. I do the same thing. But, we have the covenants of the Word all the way through. There are a couple more, here, I'm not going to touch. Maybe next weekend we'll take and look at them. In the meantime, let us rise at this time and be dismissed.

Gracious Heavenly Father, again we want to thank You for Your covenants. Which we know the great covenant is the Everlasting Covenant by the Blood of him who offered himself through the Eternal Spirit. And this is what we're looking at, Lord. And we understand these things a little better. And we can see as never before (because it comes out that way) that You never did change in what You did and how You did it. You never changed Yourself -- one God with one Word, one way of doing it.

Now, we can see, Lord, who is in the picture. And we can see, again, the finality or what is now developing before us, all the way from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. And here we stand, Lord, in the middle of the stream which flows time and eternity together.

And I believe, Lord, if there's nobody here in this meeting this morning ... and I'm not saying there's not; I would certainly hope every single person would be that, but Lord, if there's nobody here this morning, we can

say with Bro. Branham, “If we’re not Bride, there’s a Bride out there somewhere”. And surely, there’s somebody out there standing ... How many? I don’t know, but You know, Lord. Surely they’re standing out there. And one day, like Abraham, they’re going to be changed to immortal bodies, no longer living in corruptible flesh. Living in freedom of the Spirit, which is a whole new world within itself.

Lord, I can understand that when Abraham stood before You, he said, “Lord, what can You do about this situation?” All he could do was know that You were a God who could do anything. But his own experience was telling him, “Hey, this is what happens in life”. And You just turned it all right around and made it different.

And, Lord, we’re in the same boat this morning. We’re so used to time, to the passing things of this world, experiences within ourselves, outside of ourselves, in nature with each other. Things that happen to us, Lord, and things which we make happen (so-to-speak). And it’s very difficult, Lord, to just put the mind aside, and rejoice in the God of our salvation, the covenant-keeping God, and know that this is it. That the end of the road is in sight. It’s just about over till the last one is in and child-trained. Maybe it’s already on, now. And pretty soon, Lord, the Voice is going to bring the dead out of the ground, and the trumpet is going to call a people home.

Lord, may we all be ready for that day in that hour, Lord. May there not be one sick amongst us, previous to that. And may there not be any amongst us lost, Lord, or any letting down the bars and getting cold. We don’t know what is going to happen, Father. But I know, this morning, every one of us can determine in our hearts, but the grace of God, we’ll let no bars down, we won’t get cold, we’re going to press on. Pressing right in, coming close to that liquid heat (as-it-were) that dissolves everything that is trashy, that is malfunctioning – was good in the first place and became degraded and abased – and bring it back to a beautiful gem-setting of eternal life. Help us, this morning, to be that way. We ask these mercies in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

‘Take the Name of Jesus with you.’