

Leadership #21

God before Father

October 2, 1994

Heavenly Father, we know that when You tabernacled here in flesh upon the earth, You were not recognized by the majority of people, in fact, very, very tiny minority, and also rejected by that vast majority, and spurned and cast aside because of Your Words which You spoke through the human instrumentality in that particular time in Your Only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and now today, as with every prophet and with Him, the great Prophet, the entire Prophet. We have the same thing in this hour: people are turning You away because though they see, they do not hear, and they, therefore, do not understand, otherwise they'd be converted.

And now we know, Lord, that judgment is sealed upon the earth, but we're very happy this morning to know You love us because we have been predestinated to this place, to see and to hear and to understand, and to grow up as part of that great harvest, and manifesting whatever You want in our lives, Lord.

We pray that we'll be truly obedient to the faith, always hungry for the Word of God, that we may always thirst for It and find our thirst quenched in this Message, and all our satisfaction there, and grow fat "as the calves in the stall" [Mal 4:2], as the Scripture said, as You come to take us home. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

You may be seated.

1. Now we're in number twenty-one, and since it is only about fourteen hours ago that we were reading from, and speaking from, "Leadership", we do not need to recap, except to say that Bro. Branham, having spoken about the rich young ruler refusing God in person and in the temple of the Lord Jesus Christ because of the Word, showed that the so-called Christian church was now doing the very same thing in this hour. And they have not only done that, but are doing it, and they're coming to a place of full harvest, which, of course, God will rid the earth of them by fire, cleansing the earth. And, of course, He will also purge the church, purge Israel.

Then proceeding from the understanding that all have the choice, like the young man, to receive or reject, he spoke on another choice which had to do with 'conduct'. First of all, you have the choice to receive or reject; the next thing is your conduct. After he dealt with that, but not finally, (He spoke more of it later.) he went on to the choice that men usually make, which is the choosing of a wife. And naturally, if the man is a real man, he will choose God and then choose a wife by her conduct, for most times actions speak louder than words, as Bro. Branham said that *the voice, what's in your heart, speaks louder in heaven than your voice on earth.*

2. Describing the woman, a man ought not to choose when he surely can see that the Bride of Christ will not engage in any conduct that dishonors the Word as It is set forth. So, thus far we have heard him describe the two choices, both of which are either acceptable or unacceptable, depending on the person. One is altogether unacceptable to God, and the other is acceptable. And denouncing men's creeds and dogmas and women's dress, we have an exact picture of the age as set forth by John in Rev 3:14-21, but in Bro. Branham's own words, as a twentieth-century prophet, giving us the true picture of Rev 3:14-21 for this hour.

When he is through, as God's mouthpiece, in declaring what should be their true spirituality in their relationship with God, he now tells this story to illustrate what it should really be like if they are indeed children of the King. And so, we just start reading there where we left off in paragraph 184.

3. Now Bro. Branham has said in paragraph 183, he's telling that the men, who are supposed to be the leaders and the head of the family, head of the house, and so on, they've turned away from the truth to creeds and dogmas, and the women have shown, by their dress and by their attitudes, (That's the church.) truly irresponsible conduct. Therefore, the church has entirely turned away from her headship, which is Christ the Word.

4. So, Bro. Branham said:

[184] *As I said last night about a king one time, down in the south they had this colored man was sold for a slave. Why, it was just like a used car market, you get a bill of sales on them. And I was alarmed, a little place I read one day where a broker came along to buy some, and he said, "Well, now...and Bro. Branham's very disjointed here; you just have to go along with this. They were sad, those slaves, you had to whip them, make them work because they were so far away from home. They were sold as slaves, not just as laborers and workers. They were in a foreign country they knew nothing about, and they never would be back home again, and they were sad. You had to whip them to make them work. But this broker came by a certain plantation.*

[185] *One young fellow there with his chest out, his chin up, you didn't have to ship him. He was right up, and he kept the morals, I think he meant the morale, of the rest of them up.*

And the broker said, "I'll buy him."

[186] *And the owner said, "He's not for sale. Not going to sell him. You aren't going to buy him, because he simply is not for sale."*

[187] *He said, "Well, what makes him so different? Is he the boss over the rest of them?"*

He said, "No, he's not the boss."

"Do you feed him different?"

[188] *"No, he's just a slave; he eats like the rest of them in the galley."*

"What makes him so different?"

[189] *And he said, "I wondered myself until I found out. Over in Africa (where they came from, where the Boers bought them and brought them over here and sold them for slaves), over there his father is a king of the tribe. And yet, an alien, away from home, he knows he's the son of a king. And so he conducts himself that way."*

[190] *What a rebuke to Christianity! We're supposed to represent God and eternal Life. There's only one form of eternal Life, and that's God. He alone has eternal Life. And we are products of Him, because we're genes of His Spirit. Then we should conduct ourselves, men and women, like the Bible said for us to do. Not Jezebels of the street and Rickies of the organization; but Christian gentlemen, sons and daughters of God, born of the Spirit of God, manifesting the Light in our days and scattering It. That's exactly right.*

5. You notice, Bro. Branham instantly goes back to conduct. He cannot seem to leave this alone. Now he said, "*What a rebuke to Christianity!*" And you know, Paul the apostle, rebuked the Jews; and you go to Rom 2:14, It says:

- (14) For when the Gentiles which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:
- (15) Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile excusing one another.

Now it's a very confused situation Paul is talking about, but the thought that I have here is one that I've seen through many, many years, that many times God has a witness against the very people that should be called His Own, who call themselves 'His Own', but they do not even begin to line up with what God has set forth in His Word and what should be in their distinctive natures because their soul has come from God. And Bro. Branham said that *the soul is the nature of the spirit, giving it an atmosphere.*

6. Now the soul cannot be the nature of the spirit, then it would not exist; the soul could not exist, because the nature, of itself, does not exist. There must be something prior to it, or substanding it, from which it comes. You say, "The nature of this rose is that it loves water."

But it doesn't love water sprayed on its leaves. You have to feed it from underneath, through the roots.

And you say, "I like a cat, its nature."

It hates to jump into water. Very few cats ever jump into water, unless it's very dangerous for them; the cat may jump in then. Dogs love to jump into water.

So, you cannot say for one minute that the soul is the nature of the spirit, because that would make the spirit everything and the soul merely that which comes out of it, because of what is in the spirit. That is not true. When Bro. Branham said, "*Giving it an atmosphere,*" he was telling you that that soul will give an atmosphere to your spirit. In other words, the soul is literally in control. Therefore he said, "*You have within your soul only one real thing and that is the power of choice, and you can decide for or against God.*"

7. Now, right here these Gentiles are a rebuke to Israel. So therefore, now the world is actually a rebuke to the so-called Christians, the Laodicean Christians, the Pentecostal chaff because, as I said the other night, when we went over in Greece, in the islands, the sign on the orthodox church door was, "Ladies, please do not come in slacks and halters and shorts. Honor the Lord and the dead."

And you can see also when Paul spoke of women cutting their hair, he said, "Does not nature tell you that it's unseemly for a woman to cut her hair?" [1 Cor 11:14-15] And actually you will find that since that hair is given to her for her covering, it pertains to her sexuality. That's right. Even as a woman cannot wear clothes that pertain to a man that pertains to his sexuality, his maleness.

8. Now I used to make a test, when I went on the road years ago, and I never found any man, except one man, who believed that women were more feminine and showed forth their true sexuality. I'm not talking about 'intercourse'. I'm talking about true sexuality and their sensitivity to their femininity. But didn't long hair appeal to the men in that particular way, that they judged that they were more feminine?

I only had one man ever raise his hand that he liked short hair. And that man is the man who followed Lorrie [...], who proclaimed himself 'Son of man' on moon landing day, and all these goofy things that went on. He took them over to India there, and the first thing, he gave them all these foreign,

goofy names, and he wrote history like crazy. I read some of his junk just to sort of get into it, you know, to see what in the world is going on, and I threw it in the garbage, very post-hastily.

9. But you see what we see here: there is a witness against the church at that particular time, which was Israel, in rejecting Christ. Now the rejection of Christ and His Word is seen in the women's dress. Now we'll talk about this more as we go along, but I just wanted to bring this to you, that God always has a witness regardless.

Now, there's a witness in the heavens, there's a witness in the earth, there's a witness amongst people. And these people at the end time, who truly call themselves born again, full of the Holy Ghost, the elect Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, are actually chaff for the burning, and there is a witness against them, and you'll see witnesses all over the country, absolutely. You'll find people that are no more on the Word than nothing.

Like we've got the Amish and the Mennonites... After all, they invented God, because where was God before they had these silly black hats and their uniforms? I'm serious; I want to know. It's not just a facetious remark. You show me. You show me where their old-time Simon Minnow actually put his complete faith in clothes. The Salvation Army does the same thing. And yet they are a rebuke to the people. They are a positive rebuke to the people of the last day.

10. And remember how it was that Bro. Branham said that *he had a vision concerning the Trinitarian Church, and she was a dolled-up woman with a short permanent wave hair, and she had on short skirts and high-heeled slippers*, and man, she was jazzed up to the eyebrows.

And Bro. Branham was standing there, talking to her, trying to give her the Word of the hour, and Mr. Devil came by—little old slick mustachio, curled up at the ends with just the right amount of mustache wax, his hair slicked back. Oh, he was a city slicker. And he came by, and he whistled and he winked at her, and man, she was gone (whistles) like a shot.

Well, the next thing, along come Miss Oneness, and she isn't quite so pretty. She's a little more 'dowdy' in the sense of the word. Well, the first one wasn't dowdy, as the world calls 'dowdy'. This one had on longer skirts and longer hair, and she had what looked like might be a little more of the Word of God in her, and don't you know he was talking with her, and for a minute she pricked her ears up. Of course, you know, Bro. Branham did understand 'oneness' of the Godhead, not according to Jesus-Only, but according to the Scripture.

And they were engaged in a conversation. Pretty soon Mr. World came by again—slicked down greaser that he was...slick, cunning, old devil. And he winked at her and whistled at her, and as soon as he caught her eye, she began jazzing off. But she turned and gave one look and then went on.

So, you see there's a witness out here in the world. These people, they're way back there in literally the dark ages of Scripture. It's very strange. It's very strange today that the Roman Catholic Church, which received the condemnation of Almighty God, that surely she will go to the Lake of Fire, actually shows these Pentecostals something they actually don't even know of—and the world also.

11. [190] *What a rebuke to Christianity! We're supposed to represent God and eternal Life, or even eternal Life. There's only one form of eternal Life, and that's God. He alone has eternal Life.*

And you can use two verbs here: you can say, "He alone is eternal Life," and "He alone has eternal Life because He alone is eternal Life," and, if He has not given you a part of Him through natural election via Adam, into whom He breathed the 'breath of lives', and Adam became a living soul, showing you the propagation of soul would come by the living person, Adam, and every male, for Bro. Branham said, "*You were in God, a part of God.*" And he said, "*You were in your father.*"

Now, you make up your mind. You can be stupid. Do what you want. You can blank it out. You can be like those preachers who say, "Well, the soul's out here somewhere."

How about when Bro. Branham said... He said just opposite. He said, "*The spirit was out there waiting for the body.*"

Yeah. Wasn't the spirit of Adam waiting for a body? And didn't God put him in a body? Huh? And at the same time breathe into his nostrils the 'breath of lives'? So, there'd be a propagation of God's children down here? Of course, they came the wrong way. We'll look at that after a little bit. If we have time, we'll see that, too. All right.

12. [190] ...*He alone is eternal Life. He alone has eternal Life. And we are products of His, or a product of Him, we are Children of Him, because we are genes of His Spirit. Then we should conduct ourselves, men and women, like the Bible said for us to do. Not Jezebels of the street...*(Now he's talking again about women representing the church.) *and the Rickies of organizations.*

And don't you know, at the end time the churches heap to themselves teachers having itching ears? In other words, what the church wants to hear, they'll pay the preachers to produce it for them. But there's always got to be witness somewhere, and there is.

[190] *And the Rickies of organization, the rats of organization... There are those that are the presidents and the elders and so on of organization, the clubs that Bro. Branham spoke of, ...but Christian gentlemen, sons and daughters of God, born of the Spirit of God, manifesting the Light in our days and scattering It.*

Now, of course, what you're doing, you're noticing right here that Bro. Branham alone could stand for the true manifestation of the Light. In other words, he was sent of God, became 'God to the people', and brought the truth.

13. Now the people manifest in this particular area: the men, representing the leadership, must leave every creed and doctrine, every dogma, and Bro. Branham came as John the Baptist, to make ready the prepared people. And John the Baptist opened their understanding. That's over there in Luke 1, when he went before the most high God in the spirit and the power of Elijah. That's a very simple, outstanding statement. That's exactly what happened. He went before the Lord God of Israel, when God came into the body of Jesus Christ, and he preceded that. And he told the people, "There's that One coming;" he laid it all out. He said, "The one upon whom you see the Spirit of God descending and remaining, that one is the Son of God." And he said, "I beheld that." And his job was to make ready the prepared people by opening their understanding.

Their disobedience to the Word was not that they were disobeying the Word: they didn't understand it. Like the rich, young man: he never disobeyed that Word. He said, "All of the commandments, I've kept. Every moral issue, I've done it." You see? But that wasn't it. He didn't understand. He didn't have an understanding. And that's where the Spirit of revelation and wisdom come into the church at the last time to give us the understanding. And Bro. Branham said, "*How do you get ready? You get ready by never, ever saying the creeds and the dogmas.*" See?

14. Now you can get people just like my mother was. My mother used to pray and pray, and she'd pray these big, long prayers that were already conjured up for her and put through the printing press. It was all right, I guess. I mean... Then one day she began to have her mind opened a little bit to the Scripture, and she came across the fact that the Apostles' Creed was not in the Bible. Now Mother was not a very spiritual person. So, as soon as she found out that she'd been reciting the Apostles' Creed all these years and praying, well, how could she be wrong?

I thought, “Well, how could the woman ever be right?” I lived with her. She never had insight. She had insight into some things, like healing, prayer, and different things—morality, but no understanding. You’ve got people right today coming with, “Well, how could I be wrong? How could I be wrong? How could I be wrong?”

Merciful God! All my life I’ve wondered, “How could I be right?” The rightness is in Him. Like Jesus said, “Why callest thou me ‘good’?” What do you think I’ve got about me to recommend myself? There is only one ‘good’, that is God.”

15. Now, that was Jesus’ personal response, not God speaking in him, though surely those words came from God because there’s one God; He’s got an Only-begotten Son. If Jesus would have said one thing different from God, he would have betrayed his birthright of dividing and sharing everything his Father had equally. He’d have stepped over the line, said, “I want ten percent more.”

Let me tell you something: before you even speak of ‘Father’, you better speak of ‘God’. ‘Father’ indicates too much of the ‘chum’ idea with me, too much of the ‘peer’ business, too much of the ‘pal’.

Huh-uh, huh-uh. No. When you talk of God as your Father, you talk of sovereignty, you talk of obedience, you talk of sharing, you talk of training, you talk of coming to maturity and adoption. You don’t talk of anything as though you, of yourself, had something, as though you caused your birth and you picked your parents. Now you’re able to tell me something. No. Don’t ever talk of ‘Father’ before you say ‘God’. And you’re talking sovereignty; you’re talking reality and truth. And Bro. Branham said, “*In our day the Light was manifested, and we’re to manifest it by our clothing getting redder.*”

16. Remember, the Bride is dressed all beautiful, within and without. She’s been washed in the waters of separation. And he says, ‘*Scattering it*’. Scattering what? The Gospel for this hour. Like he spoke on “End-Time Evangelism”, the man sitting in the congregation going to Africa, I don’t believe had one clue. I’m not saying he wasn’t sincere. I’m not saying that. But I’m telling you: even praying and trying to understand that there is one God, as far as I know from the letter he wrote to my wife denying Bro. Branham and that ministry, said he was a Trinitarian before he met Bro. Branham, and I believe he died a Trinitarian. That’s idolatry.

Well, you say what you want, and I’m going to tell you something: if everybody gets in Noah’s ark, she ain’t going to float. Yep, she ain’t going to float. Nope, nope, nope, nope. Huh-uh-uh-uh. Somebody’s way off balance.

17. [191] *But how far we’ve drifted from It!*

The conduct, the manifestation, the truth of the Gospel. How far? We’ve had 2,000 years of drifting. It started under Paul, when he said, “Even now these evil men have risen up with another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel.” How far we’ve drifted from it. Now, remember; Jesus came back to put everything in perspective, in order, to fulfill all the Scripture.

[191] *How far we’ve drifted from It! Why? The same thing this boy did here. He rejected, he refused eternal Life...*

Now, notice he didn’t just reject it, you know, shrug it off. He refused it; came against it. He didn’t only just say, “Well, I don’t know if I can accept that. Let me tell you something: it is right, what that man said. He’s right.”

He was one of those who said, “When our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, what are you going to show us?” They wanted socialism, which the key is: everybody feeds each other. Isn’t that strange America... As the Frenchman said, “What a strange country, America. Everybody pays everybody else’s bills.”

Some taxpayers are stuck in the middle. They can't pay their bills and have their homes because they've got to give it away to those who won't work, those that build illegitimate children by the thousands, who think society owes them something: the parents, so foolish, the goings-on, to propagate a world and populate a world with that type of thinker. He's not human...because animals work. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her days and be wise." [Prov 6:6]

Remember the little poem with the cricket and the ant? The cricket fiddled all summer and laid up nothing. When he came, he came to the ant who'd worked diligently, and he said, "I'd like to have some of your food."

He said, "Why didn't you work instead of just singing, playing in the orchestra?"

Very strange, isn't it?

18. [191] ...*We've drifted from It! ...Rejected, refused eternal Life, because It would cost him his social standing. It'd cost him the luxury which he got out of his money, It'd cost him his fellowship in the church; It'd cost him a lot of things. He knew what It was going to cost him. He was a sensible boy, he could add two and two and get four, and he felt he couldn't pay the price. Yet he thought, "I'll just trust my religion and go on."*

See, he didn't know the life had gone out of it. That's what happened when Bro. Branham came on the scene; the life went out of it. Do you know that two people died almost together, when Bro. Branham came on the scene in 1946: the woman and the man. The famous woman was Amie Semple McPherson. The great Pentecostal was Charles S. Price. Yet the Four-Square look back to Amie. The Full Gospel Businessmen, the head man is dead now. He took Charles S. Price over the living prophet, William Branham.

I knew both of them. Let me tell you this: as my neighbor, who was a business manager of Dr. Charles Price, said to me, when I said, "How do you feel that General Booth, that you knew, and you were his aide-de-camp when he was in Canada, how do you feel Price and Booth stack up with each other?"

He said, "I'll put it this way; I tell everybody: General Booth was the only man fit to shine Dr. Price's shoes."

19. Let me tell you this, knowing both Dr. Price and William Branham: that it is my estimation, having known both, that the best Charles Price could have done, was pour water on the hands of Elijah, which simply means, "This is the man that I turn to, the man that I'll serve, the man that knows and has what I do not have."

I believe that Charles Price was a true seed of Almighty God; he had to be taken off the scene. But Pentecost still goes back to Charles Price and those that believe that tongues is the evidence, when tongues is merely a gift, and there is no Scripture to back it. In fact, the Scripture distinctly says that the Holy Spirit is here to lead you into truth. And the question comes, "What is truth?" And in this hour, it can only be that which is **vindicated** because judgment is upon the land.

20. [191] ...*Cost him his...church, cost him a lot of things. ...He was a sensible boy, "I'll just trust my religion," but it won't work. But down in his heart he knew there was something about Jesus which was different from those priests of that day.*

I used to go to these meetings where the Full Gospel Businessmen were. I didn't go to too many. I enjoyed the falderal, stuff like that, just to see what's going on, and I had not made a commitment to Bro.

Branham. The word is I would later on. And I would go there. We noticed one thing: if Oral Roberts was there, he was walking up the corridors alone. Where William Branham was, it was like bees and flies around honey.

Did that mean they gravitated toward him because they actually believed him, in contradistinction to Oral Roberts? No, no, no. They believed Oral Roberts, but they knew that William Branham had something they didn't have, which was THUS SAITH THE LORD and a gift of healing, which when under the anointing of God, he could produce a diagnosis and, at the same time, an instant cure. We're all looking for a diagnosis that cures us (Aren't we?) without going through the prognosis and the work that it entails. And they knew William Branham had something, but they did not believe him.

21. And my question is this: Is there any way they could have believed him in the light of Scripture? The answer is radically "no," categorically "no." In their hearts, down deep, they knew there was something about William Branham that was different from the priests of that day.

[192] *And any message that has come in, that's come in or comes in, a genuine, 'born of God Message', is different from the old trend.*

Now, you understand, of course, that this is very difficult to take. You understand it's difficult to take because this Book declares in Revelation 22, the concluding book of the Bible: you cannot add a Word, you cannot take a Word.

So, instantaneously, when you talk about another message, it doesn't strike the people as it ought to strike them because they've seen through history the reformers and those that brought a certain amount of truth, which truth was as that water upon the sea, (Indeed it was.) to bring forth the light within the vessel and change the vessel so that his conduct and his ways and his life would have harmonized with the Scripture to such an extent that you saw, literally, revolutions take place in lives of people because of the zeal and the power that lay in the messages of those that brought forth that light.

But nobody believed. Let me get it again: nobody believed. I've read no books on it. I have not looked recently, and I'm not going to look. But the theologians and the people have not believed in the restoration of Elijah, which would mean to restore the Word, because they said, "We have the Word; It doesn't need restoring."

It only needs believing! And in there, they leave it to themselves to understand what 'believing' is, which Bro. Branham said is 'a true revelation', which is the passive faith we talk about: that which is truly correct.

22. Now, you take the Catholics, (And I'm not fussing at the Catholics.) because I'm going to tell you: Monsignor Knox, in translating the Bible, his translation in the Book of Acts is so thrilling, it's like reading almost a wild West story. The King James version is flat along side of Monsignor Knox' translation; it is so vivid and so brightly sparkles. And yet, when he goes to 1 Corinthians, and he speaks of the fire trying every man's work, he pleads the Roman Catholic case of purgatory.

There is no purgatory—the purging is here and now. The next step is not purging, except of the church when the foolish virgin die and give their lives. Monsignor Knox refused to believe the truth, though he interpreted this Bible...rather, translated It. There is no place where you can find purgatory. It's after death, the judgment, and after judgment, the Lake of Fire, or the eternal City.

It doesn't matter that Monsignor Knox was a brilliant student; there was no understanding, because like this person here, there is no way that ruler, because a monsignor is, and a cardinal, a ruler. They take the Scripture, "Rule my people, rule my people, rule my people." And they do it with a hard hand. Let me tell you something: the Jesus-Only people, and my understanding, what I've seen, are harder than the Roman Catholics.

23. Ninety-five percent of the Branhamites have turned Oneness...turned Oneness...any message that comes. "I'm preaching the Message," they say. They understand that Paul's Gospel is the basic. Most understand it was written to the Gentiles. Most people understand there's seven Gentile church ages, but when it comes to seven messages, and they're there before them, they recognize it only hazily by virtue of the fact they're going down the road and they recognize that the neighboring field has corn on the right side and the left hand has soybeans.

In other words, they know they're there. What's the corn field and the soybean field to them? Nothing, nothing. And the next thing, they're like the harlot who commits adultery...no problem. The Bible said "like eating a piece of bread and wiping your mouth:" all part of the day. No problem.

24. The Bible said they'd become past feeling, their conscience seared with a hot iron. Isn't it strange the conscience seared with a hot iron, and yet the people are lukewarm? Why are they lukewarm? Because their conscience is seared with a hot iron.

This boy gave up his conscience, only to get it back in dire circumstances. As an old man, he lifted up his eyes in hell and repented, but it was too late. And then he got full of compassion, and he said, "Somebody, help my brothers."

Wouldn't it be awful to wake up in hell to find compassion there? You turned it down here. "Compassion," Bro. Branham said, "*is doing the Word of God.*" That's 'His Will is in His Word'. He turned the Word down. He had everything there to receive; turned It down flat. Yeah, he didn't spread the good Word; no, he turned on the good Word.

25. What do you say we go to the Book of Hebrews just a minute here. We go to Hebrews 10, and that's about the high priest. What happens when he's the high priest? When he's the high priest, there's no more sacrifice because the high priest was the sacrifice; now he comes to mediate and intercede concerning his accomplished work before God, called the 'Satisfaction of God'.

And he said:

- (16) ... (A new) covenant I will make... I'll put my laws in their hearts and in their minds I will write them; (Even in their minds, see, it's got to come by the mind.)
- (17) Their sins I will remember no more.
- (18) Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin.
- (19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest (of holies) by the blood of Jesus, (And Bro. Branham said at one time it was death to go behind the veil, now it's death not to go behind the veil.)
- (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (He made this by his flesh.)
- (21) And *having* an high priest over the house of God;
- (22) Let us draw (nigh) with a true heart in full assurance (That's what Abraham had.) of faith, (Took him twenty-five years to get there. It's at the last church age we get there.) having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, (Boy, this guy had a seared conscience. You know, he'd have been better off if he had no conscience, evidently.) and our bodies washed with pure water. (Now, watch:)

- (23) Let us hold fast the (confession) (That word is ‘confession’, which means to ‘say the same thing as’. Huh?) of *our* faith without waivering; (for faithful *is* he that promised;)

26. Now, that goes on to chapter 12, doesn’t it? Because he’s going right on through. And in Heb 12:25, It says:

- (25) See that you refuse not him that speaketh. (Who’s speaking? Mediator, the one that gets you in; Intercessor, keeps you in. He accomplished it all. Don’t refuse him.) For if they escaped not who refused him that spoke on earth (Refused God back there on Sinai; refused God in the form of Jesus Christ in the human body.)
- (26) Whose voice then shook the earth: (And it did. There’s earthquakes, everything else. Who said:) Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but heaven. (Do you know that this Message actually shakes heaven? Huh? Surely, It does. This is a message of judgment... ‘left hand, right hand’.)
- (27) ...Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, (Man-made creeds and dogmas.) that those things which cannot be shaken remain. (The Word of God can’t be shaken.)
- (28) Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, (Huh?) let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:
- (29) For our God *is* a consuming fire.

When is God a consuming fire? Only at the end time. Huh? When he shall come with his angels and flames of fire—2 Thessalonians 1, Malachi 4, the wind up. Huh? All right.

27. Let’s go back now to what I was reading in chapter 10, and I want to show you something here:

- (23) Let us hold fast the confession of our faith.

What confession? The confession of the high priest, the one from heaven, speaking now. Okay. That’s in this hour. He’s still the High Priest. He’s got a confession; he only says what God says.

Now it’s very strange that there’s a big preacher down south who’s got him comatose. Now, if you’re talking when you’re comatose, what are you doing? You’re raving; you’re sick; you’re out of your mind. I thought when you were full of the Holy Spirit, when God gave us a Spirit, It was not of fear, but of courage and love and a sound mind. I don’t know anything different from that. So, I really don’t know what preachers are preaching these days. I can’t preach what they preach. It’s too foreign to me. There’s only one Gospel, and this Gospel has to be vindicated at the end time because Paul’s was vindicated the first time, and there’s no theologian that does not admit—absolutely, categorically admit—that Paul was vindicated. And now they say, “Well, Paul was vindicated; we got it.”

Yet Paul said, “They’re missing it already.”

They can’t read that. That means everybody but them. What are they talking about? It’s terrible. Any Message that comes in, a genuine born Message of God, is different from the old trends. As Bro. Branham said, “*Why would God vindicate a tired, worn out old message? It had its day.*”

28. [192] ...*When a divine healing went forth, not long ago, did you notice how the impersonators followed it?*

“When a divine healing went forth...” Now, let’s just check this out: 1946, the Angel of God came and said to William Branham, “I have been sent from the presence of the most high God to give you a gift of healing to take to the world.” And He said, “If you don’t doubt, believe, not even cancer will stand before you.”

And that man proved that he had power, actually an authority, over the souls of all men by the presence of God, the same as Jesus, because when he took every spirit in control, he was talking about human beings; he didn’t worry about little old devil spirits hanging around. He had them under his thumb already. And he could prove it by reading every man’s soul, his mind, his heart, his record. The gift of healing opened the door to that.

Now, if you believe that Paul, vindicated, could open the Old Testament and make it live, is there any difference between William Branham, a vindicated messenger, a prophet—if indeed he is—to not do the same thing?

29. Now Peter was preaching at Pentecost under the anointing of God, and then he preached a few days later to the same people in Acts 3, and he went back to the old prophets in verse 18.

(18) But those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer (and die), he has fulfilled. (And he just took it plumb out of the Word. And he said:)

(19) Repent ye therefore, (that you may) be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.

In my books there should be a period there. I don’t know what the original Greek says. It goes by inflection, not by punctuation. My understanding is that’s a period. And the next sentence should say, “When the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” In other words, “There’s a time coming,” Peter says, “down the road.” And notice what he says about that time of refreshing: “that...

(20) (God will) send Jesus Christ (after that time of refreshing) (that) Jesus Christ (that) was preached unto you (and you turned him down, preached by the prophets, brought into manifestation by Almighty God, you killed and crucified, God raised him, put him at His Own right hand, and all it amounted to you is preaching. You just heard sermons; you didn’t get anything. But, watch:)

(21) The heavens must (retain that person that God raised) until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of God by all his holy prophets since the world began.

Now Bro. Branham categorically said, “*Times of refreshing*,” which the Bible says is a ‘fresh breeze’, a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit. He said, “*It’s that great healing revival.*”

So, this has to be a great healing revival that is mentioned in the Bible and set forth by Peter way back there in that year...what? 33½ A.D.

30. And then It says:

(22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, (He’s going right back now.) A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him you’ll hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

- (23) (Now) it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

That did not happen in 33 even to 70 A.D., at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem. It didn't happen. It's going to happen in the Great Tribulation when the Jews are purged, the church is purged, and the earth is purged. And this world is utterly destroyed, identical to Malachi when Elijah comes at the time of the burning, and our Savior rising with healing in His wings, which Bro. Branham said *was the Rapture*.

Now people say, "What authority has he?"

"THUS SAITH THE LORD," and that picture there proves the authority, which is strange. The world recognizes: the head of the FBI documentation, photographs, and so on... George J. Lacy said that's the picture of a supernatural being, the only one in existence.

31. And then he says:

- (24) Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, likewise foretold these (things).

Now you notice It says, "Raise up a prophet like unto Moses," and he pinpointed him as Samuel, a man like Samuel. William Branham always referred to Samuel: "*When did I take your money? When did I tell you wrong? Put your finger on me, if you can. You can't do it. I defy you.*"

And they couldn't do it. Like little Chihuahua dogs, nipping and yapping at the feet of the big St. Bernard, (or better still the Wolfhound, which is about the biggest one) they continue to yap and nip because that's all they could do. That's all they were good for.

32. Now I want you to notice Bro. Branham said here that *after this great revival there would be impersonators*. Now the Bible speaks of those impersonators; absolutely, we don't have any trouble recognizing that. There are lots of Scripture for it, and Acts 2, Peter, speaking at Pentecost, looks way down the road, and the alpha of the omega end time was:

- (15) These are not drunken, as you suppose, it's only (nine o'clock in the morning),
- (16) But that spoken by the prophet Joel;
- (17) It (will) come to pass in the last days, (Not the first days, but the last days, although this is the second of the last days coming.) I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: your sons and daughters prophesy, young men see visions, your old men (see) dreams:
- (18) And on my servants and my handmaids I will pour out my Spirit in those days;
- (19) And I will show wonders in (the) heaven above.

And It says right here, 'When there comes the time of that anointing on those that are the servants of organizations, creeds and dogmas, (the lodges) and those that are of God, the Great Tribulation will instantly start—when it's all over.' When those two anointings have run out—Son of man, Son of Perdition—then there'll be the Rapture, the tribulation, the coming back with the saints.

33. Now in 2 Timothy 3, way at the back here, It says:

- (1) Know this, in the last days perilous times shall come.

Now Bro. Branham explained ‘perilous times’. He said, “*It’s the only time in Scripture it is perilous,*” and that’s because the two spirits are so close together. When Jesus was on earth and confronted by Satan, he simply booted him out of the camp; that was the end of Satan. When his emissaries came, he just cast them out, bound them, and they couldn’t do a thing about it.

Not so at the end time. The Spirit of God and Satan—who is a spirit, a great archangel, spirit-being—are diametrically opposed to each other, and in confrontation. And, as it was in the beginning where Satan led in the worship of Almighty God, he’s allowed to come here as he was in Judas, the alpha, and through the name of Jesus, cast out devils, prophesy correctly, speak in tongues and interpret, manifest gifts of healing and faith and everything else, even raise the dead, like Judas did, and yet be entirely false seed, away from everything that is of God and from God, though, like the devil, his servants are using everything of God and from God, and they’re completely deceived, and the Bible said, “They are deceived, and deceiving.” [2 Tim 3:13]

34. [2 Timothy 3:1]

- (1) ...Perilous times...

- (2) Men...lovers of their own selves... (That’s what the young man was.)

“Take up your cross.”

“No way. I love myself.”

- (2) ...Covetous... (He kept on to his money.) boasters... (“I’m head of the community. All these things I’ve done. Hey, man, I’m a top...”)
blasphemers... (Stand right there and reject. Blaspheme the God of heaven. Tribulation hasn’t even set in. Here’s the goodness of Almighty God standing there, God Himself. Here today, the same thing, and they’re blaspheming...blaspheming the Word.) disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (So on, right down the line.)

35. And then It says here in verse 8:

- (8) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses...

There you are: impersonators: they did what Moses did up to a point and couldn’t go any further. All these guys can discern, but they can’t discern one hundred percent.

That’s what really puzzled me. I found I couldn’t discern one hundred percent. Bro. Branham set me straight. I was already stopping it anyway. Already gifts and things were departing. It was over. How could something within me say, “This is the man you’ll listen to, if you listen to anybody,” and then go on, chugging along like some old four-cylinder engine with at least 3-½ cylinders out, trying to get somewhere. Three and a half cylinders? If you did have more, what good does it do you? Huh? They had an anointing, what good did it do them? They’re not going anywhere—just chugging along. Yeah. They’re not the little red engines that said, “I could do it.” Oh, they were, but they didn’t.

Jannes and Jambres... Look at them...resisting truth: “Now William Branham, he’s a prophet when he discerns. Oh, yeah, yeah. He can discern. When it comes to doctrine, don’t listen.”

36. That happened right here in Ohio—Chatauqua. And I see the same men that claim they believe, don’t believe. At least, if He’s here, and that’s the essence of His Message, and they turn around and say, “He’s

always been here!” then God has vindicated the same old tired message. They can’t understand Bro. Branham saying, “*The same Pillar of Fire that brought the Word to Paul is here revealing It.*”

I don’t have any time to worry about them. If you can’t understand, here are two pieces of paper: one is bigger than the other, one has my scrawling, scabbled writing; the other is by a print-out machine. Can you see them? Are they the same? No, no, no.

37. Over here in 2 Peter, It says the same thing: Peter, after assuring us that what happened upon Mount Transfiguration would become an absolute, magnificent reality at the end time, that this one, of whom God said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased to dwell, hear you him,” at the end time.

Isn’t that strange that God said, “Hear him”? Actually He was saying, “Hear me.” Why did He say, “Hear him”? Because if you heard him, you did hear God. This was the one that said only what God said. Now, if we’re his brethren, and we’re part of the priesthood, and he’s the high priest over us, we ought to say what He’s saying today. It says, “That’s the witness and the testimony.”

And Peter says, “After this great manifestation of Scripture fulfilled, when the daystar rises in our heart, God speaking, bringing us to Mount Zion... Because this is the same as Hebrews 12, the excellent Voice from the glory, now speaking again, through a prophet. It’s got to have a prophet. Paul said, “There’s many voices in the air.” Tune in. “Hi. Hi. I’m listening.” You’ll get your ear drums filled.

But Paul said, “If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, then acknowledge the things that I write are the commandments of God.” [1 Cor 14:37] Not anybody else.

38. Now, look: the prophet is in this scene in chapter 1. Peter goes on and says, “There were prophets back there; in our hour, there’ll be false teachers.” Now he’s warning the Bride. The Bride is fully aware of the false prophets, that is: Deuteronomy 13 in contradistinction to Deuteronomy 18, the true prophet, vindicated by THUS SAITH THE LORD. Even Jesus himself said, “Have I not proven who I am? I say the things before they come to pass, and they come to pass. Isn’t that what I’m supposed to do? Isn’t that what the Scripture said? Isn’t that what Moses did? All right!”

You know Tucker made a car, and the big three knew they had to destroy Tucker. I’m telling you the story as I know it, and there’s a film on it. They had to destroy him, or he would have destroyed their business, so they destroyed him. I had a friend who worked for him. Yeah. He told me some of the lies they propagated; they’re still propagating.

Didn’t they say about Jesus, “If we don’t get rid of him, we’re in trouble? We’ll have our place taken away, yeah; Rome’s sustaining us”?

39. They’re going to say it again because they are. They can’t afford to say different. They’ve got to have the false teachers in, and now Rome’s got a bunch of false prophets. They’re the neo-Pentecostals, the charismatics. And at Notre Dame college, it’s absolutely true, a drunken driver, evidently, ran through the campus. Two boys were hit, one with his legs very mangled; another killed. They simply prayed: the dead rose up, and the other guy walked off. No problem. And their theologian, Jacqueline Ford, says, “Yes, we speak with tongues; yes, we prophesy; we’re accurate. We’ve got it. Watch out. Don’t come against our theology.”

A woman! But she can’t cook good meals. No. And she can’t make the beautiful dresses that our sisters here, that are approved of God, do. And even if you can’t cook good meals and make beautiful dresses, you’re still approved, because your theology is not from man, but it’s from God Himself, God’s Own Word, because ‘theology’ means ‘logos’, which is Word, and ‘theo’ which is God—God’s Word.

40. But the false teachers come in, blown up by their false prophets. As I say, and say again: I can't understand how so-called believers in this Message can go anywhere and listen to a man that tries to discern and wants prayer when Bro. Branham said, "*Stay away from that stuff!*"

I believe her name certainly was Bernice Marek; she lay there dying of cancer in Buffalo. They said, "Come on, Bernice; let's go to a Pentecostal meeting. You could be healed."

She said, "I sooner die than go there."

There's a sister, 'Danielle', in the lion's den. There's a sister, 'Mechakette', in the fiery furnace. Not a 'Ricketta', no... 'Danielle'. Yeah, she knew what these others don't know.

41. "Damnable heresies, privily gotten, or in club membership—either one, denying the Lord. Just like this rich, young man saying "no" to God, saying "no" to the One they worshipped and talked about His Blood and everything else. They said, "No." And they follow their pernicious ways.

What's 'pernicious' always associated with in America? Anemia. The blood has broken down. The blood has lost its power. It's no longer effective for these people, for they trampled under foot the Blood of the Covenant; not blood—Blood of a Covenant. You get what I said? Jesus' Blood was not just Jesus' blood', it was Blood of a Covenant.

If you and I dare to do that, we are blasphemers, and we'll be denied by God and destroyed in the Lake of Fire.

"Through covetousness..." They want to make themselves look good by you. "They come in... "feigned words, make merchandise, sell your soul, whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not and damnation slumbereth not." [2 Pet 2:3] At the time the Bride wakes up, they wake up. The Bride wakes up to her judgment, declared and exonerated the righteous Bride of Christ. They don't wake up. They're declared the unholy seed.

He talks of them as Balaamites who follow a man that was anointed truly to a true prophecy that's still coming to pass, but he's wrong. He died fighting Israel. We could go to Jude and read It. It's the same thing.

42. We go to Hebrews 6, and we find it's the time of the harvest, where Paul himself said... Let's go back and look at It.

"They should have been mature, but they weren't. But there's coming a time when they'll leave the principles of the Logos of Christ," of him having come in flesh. Certainly, because He hasn't come in flesh. Messiah has not come in flesh in the sense of the body of Jesus. The Lamb has not come down—**God** has come down; Jehovah-Elohim has come down. See, you don't talk about the flesh of Jesus now. You're talking about God doing what He did in the flesh 2,000 years ago, doing now in the form of the Holy Spirit, in the Pillar of Fire, through a prophet like unto Moses and Paul.

He said, "You lay aside that; we're going to go on to completion, not laying again those foundations there." See? And he said, "We'll do it if God permit," but they couldn't do it because the seventh age hadn't come. The church had to fall in the ground, so to speak, and die, like their Lord, as Bro. Branham said, then come forth in the stages, when the whole Holy Spirit, God Himself, and the whole Word came into view. And then he says, "At that time it's impossible for those who were once for all enlightened, (seventh message...no more to come) to taste the heavenly gift, partake of the Holy Ghost, taste the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come."

43. Do you realize that you're doing that today by accepting the Message, that you positively have everything to get you past the Resurrection into the Millennium? Nobody else has it. Don't count

yourself as just one of the throng. To do that, you do yourself an injustice, and throw God's great Good right back in His face. These people have every manifestation, but they don't have the Word.

"Having fallen away, they cannot be renewed to repentance"—the change of mind that gets down into the heart and causes a circumcision, where their hearts are right before God, because "they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh."

Now, let me ask you a question: Why did they crucify the Son of God in the first place? Because he did the miracles? No, they loved the miracles. Because he came and opened his mouth! And he said contrary to them. And when he said contrary to them, they were condemned! And they'll say, "We'll show you who's condemned!"

And they killed him. And so did DuPlessis!—the South African Pentecostal, that came over here, and he sneered when Bro. Branham died, and he said, "That man who judged everyone was judged himself. Ha! Ha! Ha! Good joke!"

44. A friend of mine phoned me, and he's a so-called prophet, Ernie, I never mentioned his name before, but it's the truth, and he phoned me. He thought because he thought I was a lackey of Bro. Branham's, and I recognized God in great men, and since I served Bro. Branham; I'd now serve him. And he said in his twang, "Well, Bro. Vayle, God doesn't smear his prophets across the road."

I said, "He fed them to lions! And their bodies were dung on the field!"

I never got one more phone call. I say the same thing to everybody in this building here, "Don't bother phoning me, or don't try to talk to me to try to change me." You're too late. I've got nowhere to go. And where you're going, I don't want to go, because I've been there." Huh? Do what you want about it. All right.

45. He says:

[192] *Any Message that comes in, genuine, born of God Message, different from the old trend. When a Divine healing went forth, not long ago, did you notice the impersonators followed it? And every one of them right in with the organizations, staying there.*

If that's the Exodus, brother/sister, you're supposed to come out of what you're into, to get away from it, to come into something else. Isn't that what the Exodus was all about? Well, you show me where it isn't, and I'll eat it. I'll take the leaves out of my Bible and chomp them right down. Not that I'm hungry; it's just that I'll do it. I've got guts to back it up; might not have the teeth, but I can soak it in water—chicken soup, preferably...ice cream or gravy. I'll chomp her down. You know that I'm not just fooling; I'm putting it in a sarcastic way. It's the truth.

[192] *...Every one went right back, stayed there. Does anyone know that there had to be a Message follow that?*

Joel said so at the time of the latter rain: the power, God's Word manifest in power, the former rain, which means there's a repeat of what once was. Go and look at the interpolation, the word 'month' there, that's the same as the foolish interpretation, they call it 'moon'. It isn't 'moon'; it's 'month'. And in this case, it's not 'month'; it's 'as in the first it was'. Now, when God repeats, it's over, because "verily, verily," that's it. You crucify Him the first time, you got away with it. That was for you. The next time you crucify—"you" get crucified, not He. "Crucify to yourselves the Son of God afresh." [Heb 6:6] You're the ones who get it.

46. Now:

[192] ...*Doesn't anyone know...does anyone know that there had to be a Message follow that?* (And, remember; he'd preached "The Rapture" now, what the 'Shout' was.) *Why, God doesn't entertain us! He attracts our attention with something, and when he attracts our attention, then He's got His Message.*

Huh? Oh, my goodness. Look, when a man courts a woman, if he has an ounce of brains, he is going to be like Isaac, who sent the servant to attract Rebekah. Eleazar brought samples, and you better believe it was the best, the samples contained the best. Huh? Okay, let's read It. [Hebrews 6]

(4) For *it's impossible* for those who are once (and for all) enlightened, taste the heavenly gift ([Smacks lips]... Oh, boy, there's more coming.) partake of the (Oh, just a pinch...oh, boy, look what's coming... [Smacks lips.]

(5) ...The good Word of God, (Huh?) and the power of the world to come.

Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh. What's he doing? Attracting the Bride. Huh? Oh, is he, or is he not? He's wooing her. Oh, my. He came on the scene, and He could read our hearts. Oh, my. God has got reins in there. These hearts one day are going to be maneuvered by God, the thing we're crying for, pleading for, hating ourselves because we get out of line, traveling the speed of thought, just getting a pinch of it this last time, trying to get our attention, trying to attract us. Attract us to what? The Word, because the Word did all this, and the Word maintains it. That's in the Book of Colossians.

47. Look, when he first came on earth and started his ministry... "Oh, young Rabbi." Remember the old saying, "Twenty to thirty, you are idolized; thirty to forty, you are martyred; forty to fifty, (That's the preacher.) you are canonized; fifty to sixty, time to be glorified."

So, they took the young man in his prime. Of course, he was thirty, and they 'lionized' him: "Oh, young Rabbi, we want you over here in our church."

"Oh, William Branham, come on over here, young prophet."

"Oh, we want you over here. Come on here."

One day he stood up and said, "*I and my Father are one.*"

"Oh, now he makes himself God."

I quote William Branham: "*Now there's two of them,*" quoting him from the abstract, nevertheless, correct. "*God, the first Man; Jesus, the second; Adam, the third.*"

Quoting William Branham, question, "*What do you mean: 'he that has seen the Father'?*"

"Why," he said, "the truth of the matter is, he that has seen me has seen the Father. Do you want to see Him?"

William Branham said the same thing. I quote William Branham

"Oh, Lee Vayle, there's two gods; there's two gods. He's preaching two gods."

48. John [Avramidis] sits here, from Baltimore...near Baltimore—two boys. We've got three Johns. Do you know that? Now we've got three gods. Now those boys aren't 'John': Andrew and Michael [John Fimiani's sons], right?

I remember Charles E. Nayber one day proved his point, preaching in Canada. At that time he wasn't divorced from his wife. When he divorced his wife and married another, his ministry went right to pot.

You could tell it; didn't know what happened—the anointing of God was off of him; he, living in adultery. But under the anointing of God before, preaching on one God, he said, “Young man,” he said, “stand up.” He said, “How many are you and your father?”

He said, “Two.”

“Sit down. You're not Jesus Christ.”

And yet he's a Trinitarian. Yet he understood perfectly, as even Browning, the poet, did: “Is it true that God came down and walked amongst men as a man?” Huh? And didn't Paul say, “Even your poets.” He said, “The Cretians are liars and slow bellies, and God knows what.” It seems that poets know more than theologians.

49. One day he said, “I and my Father are one.”

“Oh, he makes himself ‘God’.

He said, “I'm the Son of God.”

“Just a minute...then you're equal with God.”

And he was! See? The Jews knew they law of the firstborn. Yep, they knew that. They knew it. Yeah. “He makes himself God.”

50. Well, our time is gone. Just as well we're not going on because the next part I strike I've got so many notes, I've got so many Scriptures, I've got so many thoughts, I don't think I can figure it out myself, let alone have you listen, and you figure it out. But don't worry, it's there, and I'll tell you why he said certain things, and I'll take you right to Scripture. You won't go here as though you don't know. You'll leave here when I preach the next time, God willing, and follow this through.

You can do what you want with it. It's your business. But you're good people; you're good sponges. You're a combination of everything I love: you're wonderful magnets, and you're great sponges. How a magnet can pull in water is more than I know, and yet on the other hand, I do know, because the moon has magnetic forces evidently to pull the tides, (call it 'gravitational') and a sponge can soak it up. So, I commend you, my magnetic sponges, and that's for sure.

Let's rise and be dismissed.

Gracious, eternal Father, we thank You for the time we have together going into Your Word, knowing, Father, that we speak the truth as it is in Christ Jesus because this is the repeat of the apostle Paul, the Gospel that judges the world by one Christ Jesus, given by the same God, the same Pillar of Fire interpreting, that gave It to Paul, putting in language, which we can understand, because the prophet had **THUS SAITH THE LORD**. We know it is true. We don't have to doubt and wonder. We can just take what he said and go right to the Scripture, and there it is—just what Jesus did, just what Paul did, and yet today the simplicity and reality, Lord, I don't understand.

I don't understand myself, I just know there's a perverse spirit in the world. I know Your Scripture tells all of this and puts it right on the devil, but it is still difficult, Lord, for us to come to the place where it's just hands off anymore, no matter what anybody does, this is it. And we understand that, because if Jesus, himself, that Only-begotten Son, could stand in amazement and wonder at unbelief, then if we do the same thing: wonder at unbelief and wonder at people twisting everything that is said, just like they did back there when You were in the flesh of the Only-begotten Son, then it is certainly easy to believe—although we do find it hard to believe—it'll be done the same way today.

May we forgive, Lord, and a great peace of God come into our hearts and minds by the Holy Ghost, and the same love of God through circumcised hearts, stand up and be counted for You, and yet in the same spirit of Christ, and so live our lives in the grace of Almighty God, no matter what happens, whether you live or die, we are the Lord's.

And so, we thank You this morning for Your great grace that has been vindicated, the truth that has been vindicated, everything vindicated of which we're now partaking in little pinches and slices, going right on like that Roman candle to the fullness, and on and on under the Seventh Seal. How wonderful to know that, Lord. Let your people know that this is just the tiny, little first mouthful, as it were, of sitting at Your table of the future.

Now unto the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be all power, honor and glory, and may we love Him even unto death itself. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

"Take the Name of Jesus with You."