



Articles and Sermons :: What can I find out about William Branham

What can I find out about William Branham - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/9 9:21

Who is he? Are his theories true? To me he smoothly twists the word of God. When people talk about him, they say he's some sort of prophet of God, and it's more "Brother Branham said..." I hear than "The Word of God says...". I need to know the truth about this guy.

Re: What can I find out about William Branham - posted by nobody, on: 2004/2/9 10:30

You can quickly do some internet research on him, or you can read Dr. John MacArthur's book entitled Charismatic Chaos.

Who you say Branham was is the question that divides the Pentecostal camp into the mainstream/mostly biblical/AG type groups and the fringe/mostly heretical/Word-Faith type groups. The reason why he divides these camps is that he had "the signs" accompanied with false teaching. So if you believe the signs are more important than biblical teaching (future Antichrist followers), then you will love Branham. If you believe that one must teach biblical truths and that signs can be deceptive then you will see him for what he was- a heretic. Every time he opened his mouth heresy poured out and even his friends and followers were often shocked at his teaching. The only thing he did have was "gifts" of some type- I highly suspect that they were not of the Holy Spirit of God.

Try this article:

<http://www.letusreason.org/Latrain4.htm>

<http://jesus-messiah.com/html/branham.html>

<http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/quotes.html>

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/2/9 10:47

Quote:

-----So if you believe the signs are more important than biblical teaching (future Antichrist followers), then you will love Branham. If you believe that one must teach biblical truths and that signs can be deceptive then you will see him for what he was- a heretic.

I watched a video of him being interviewed and it was very demonic to me.. He talks in a very religious and biblical manner but that is the way the devil works, masquaring the truth. And yes the Antichrist will have miracles and so will the false prophets, but does that mean what they say is approved? I think not.

Matthew 24:24 - For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible.

I don't think William Branham is worth that much consideration or time on researching.

Re: - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/10 5:52

I thank you a whole lot. I never believed in him in the first place. The truth about me is that I'm an 18 year old boy, studying Computer Programming, should have my Associates Degree by the end of this year, and hopefully if funds come I'll continue on to my Bsc. While up here I met some other young people that attend this church that teaches about Branham. From the first time I heard, I didn't like the guy for his theories. He tends to corrupt the word of God. He's interpretation of what happened in the Garden of Eden is sick, their definition of the Godhead is that of modalism, and pantheism. And many more flaws, that's why I just needed input from more people, so I decided to ask y'all. Thanx. Continue to reply.

Re: - posted by Teddy, on: 2004/2/10 16:36

I read that he was a "real" healing evangelist when he started out. but in the latter part of his ministry, he started being called Elijah by his followers and then things started to take a turn for the worse.

It is said that his death was prophesied beforehand. Maybe God took him home early because of what he was doing. Those who followed him became a cult in the end.

See (<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~revival/healing.html>) Great Healing Revivalists - How God's Power Came

Teddy :-)

Re: - posted by jeremyhulsey (), on: 2004/2/10 17:23

Teddy wrote: "I read that he was a "real" healing evangelist when he started out. but in the latter part of his ministry, he started being called Elijah by his followers and then things started to take a turn for the worse."

Reply: Actually it was Alexander Dowie that came to believe that he was the prophet Elijah, and even began to dress like him. Of the two, Dowie was, at one time, closer to Biblical integrity than Branham.

Re: - posted by FireinmyBones1 (), on: 2004/2/11 11:27

Hulsey, the pioneer healing evangelist, John Alexander Dowie did come to believe at the end of his ministry that he was the prophesied Elijah to come, however, Branham also believed this about himself.

At the beginning of Branham's ministry, I believe, as far as my studies are concerned, that he was the real thing. He was a poor, uneducated man (which resulted in his later doctrinal shortcomings). He was far from a glitzy, jump suit, healing evangelist. He was a very humble man whom God moved upon and demonstrated his power through in incredible ways. He moved very powerfully in the gift of knowledge as well as the gift of healing. I know that Leonard Ravenhill actually preached for him (because he was extremely fatigued from travel), and then Branham prayed for the sick at the conclusion of Brother Ravenhill's sermon.

He never really did any of the preaching. Gordon Lindsey and others filled in here because Branham lacked a preaching gift. It is thought that it was due to his lack of education, as well as his stepping out of his area of calling (praying for the sick, attempting to become a teacher) that created the doctrinal problems. Towards the end of his life Branham became a oneness pentecostal (denied the trinity), believe that Eve had sexual relations with the serpent, that he was the prophet Elijah, and many other bizarre doctrines. It was Kenneth Hagin that prophesied Branham's death. Some believe that the Lord took Branham to keep him from becoming steeped in false doctrine and deceiving more. (Open for debate) I do know that after his death a cult called the "Branhamites" emerged. They hail him much as the Mormons hail Joseph Smith. I personally don't believe this was due to Branham's direct influence, rather I believe it was the people. Friends, I take the story of Branham's life as a warning from heaven. It doesn't matter how much God uses you, how much gifting or anointing you possess, every great man has feet of clay. We can all be moved, whether morally, socially, doctrinally etc... Let us take heed when we think we stand lest we fall.

Burning,
Jeff

Re: - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/11 19:18

I need to whole community to do me a favor, and pray with me each morning, just remember these names in prayer, and I will update y'all of change if any. But I need you to pray for my Girlfriend who believes the William Branham thing. Her name is Jo-Anna Graham. I need you to also remember her sister Jenelle Graham, and Janine Graham. But please, especially, remember Jo-Anna. Let us use the power of prayer to its fullest. All over the world, let us unite the power of prayer here. Help me please guys...Help me God to turn this girl away from this cult in Jesus name Amen.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/2/11 19:50

Will pray for them brother.

Don't know your situation, could you download some of the sermons from here to give to her/them?

They wouldn't have to be of the variety of the issue at hand, that may not be of much help if they are that steeped in this, at least right now. But to give them some solid biblical teaching.

Let us know, surely we could give you some recommended messages that would be helpful.

Re: Thanks - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/12 3:30

I'll download the sermons if I have to, but, I definitely cannot guarantee, that they, or even Jo-Anna would listen to them. What I might end up doing, is having to cut a deal with her. I listen to William Branham, and she listens to the sermons you give me. It's not that I'm afraid that William Branham teachings will have an effect on me. The Lord has planted my feet on solid ground, I know where I stand, and with God's grace assisting me, I'm not going to fall into that trap. But if I have to cut the deal I will, once it would result in them hearing the real Word, because I know, up to this moment, they haven't been exposed to it. At least not in the truth.

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2004/2/12 4:10

Praise God brother.

Sounds fair enough to me.

"Come let us reason together."

When you listen to his messages, pray for guidance and find the scriptures where there is error. Your attitude will be key. If you are presenting your concern out of love for the truth of God's word and not in hostility (Not accusing here, I know my own zeal can get the best of me at times). Ask questions of their thoughts, what do they think? For instance if you find a point of contention and bring out a scripture, don't accuse the man or the person you're speaking with, you might want to say something like 'I think this is what Paul meant here, what do you think?' Try and stay away from using the who's right and wrong, finger pointing between preachers and get to what they are 'saying', the meaning, try to keep the personalities out of it if you can.

A spirit of gentleness will prevail.

Here is a couple to check out:

Paris Reidhead

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid282>) Ten Shekels and a Shirt

David Wilkerson

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid598>) A Call to Anguish

Hope all this is of some help to you.

Will be praying the Lord will use these messages and guide you all into a deeper understanding of His Truth.

Mike

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/2/12 6:57

Quote:

-----I know that Leonard Ravenhill actually preached for him (because he was extremely fatigued from travel), and then Branham prayed for the sick at the conclusion of Brother Ravenhill's sermon.

:o Interesting. I know Ravenhill preached with John G. Lake and also even Smith Wigglesworth before. I would love to get more information, articles, audio on this? It's really hard to find old Ravenhill audio sermons.

Quote:

-----Here is a couple to check out

Those two messages Mike (crsschk) picked out are very good. You will be blessed listening to them.

I added a William Marrion Branham audio sermon from 1947 on this site for research purposes and to be able to hear him. As the one brother pointed out he might have been ok in his early ministry but later on he went astray. And obviously his followers after he died went even more astray.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid3704>) The Angel And His Commission

Re: - posted by jeremyhulsey (), on: 2004/2/12 7:05

I know that William Branham was, at one point, an Assembly of God minister. I could probably get some info on him the next time I'm in Springfield Mo. I also have some A/G history books at my church I could look through and see if they have any info.

Re: - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/12 13:18

Question. Can someone get me a sermon on the proper definition of the Trinity, and on God's Self-Existence?

Re: - posted by jeremyhulsey (), on: 2004/2/12 19:41

I can recommend you a good book that treats the issue rather exhaustively:

Robert Morey's "The Trinity: evidence and issues"

You can find it by doing a search on (www.cbd.com) Christian Book Distributors website. Just follow that link.

In Christ,
Jeremy Hulsey

Re: - posted by Netmaster (), on: 2004/2/13 12:35

Actually, don't bother, I just got myself a very good book. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY.

Re: What can I find out about William Branham - posted by lcxor, on: 2004/4/12 15:10

Here is also some good resources and links to find more about William Branham.

<http://www.messagelinks.org>
<http://www.biblebelievers.org/>
<http://www.branham.org>

his sermons are here
<http://www.bibleway.org/wmb/audiolib.asp>

Hope this helps..

Re: WMB1 William Branham Legacy link - posted by Jojo7, on: 2004/4/12 22:42

Try <http://WMB1.com> They call it the William Branham Legacy. They have links to everywhere about William Branham.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/4/12 22:45

Quote:
-----I added a William Marrion Branham audio sermon from 1947 on this site for research purposes and to be able to hear him. As the one brother pointed out he might have been ok in his early ministry but later on he went astray. And obviously his followers after he died went even more astray.

Just to make it clear to people my position with this brother, I feel he went very astray near the end of his ministry and really wasn't teaching in accordance with the truth. God knows his heart and I hope that God will show mercy on him.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/4/12 22:50

For interest sake here is an article done by Andrew Strom on William Branham:

THE ENIGMA OF WILLIAM BRANHAM

by Andrew Strom.

William Branham was an evangelist this century who was mightily used of God for a number of years. In fact, there can be little doubt that he was endued with power to a degree that has rarely been seen since the days of the apostles. And there is still a great deal of controversy surrounding his life, death and teachings. To some of his most ardent followers (who are still around today), he seemed to assume almost semi-divine status,- a damaging and tragic fallacy that has frightened many sound Christians away from studying his life. On the other hand, even in his heyday some believers were sceptical and suspicious of the tremendous power and unusual signs and miracles that accompanied his ministry. There can be little doubt that Branham went astray in his ministry in the latter part of his life. (The fact that God took him home early, and that the cause of death was a car-crash in which his body became horribly tangled in the wreck, though he lingered on for a few more days - bears this out). However, it is my belief, and the belief of many who have studied his life, that in his early years he was one of the most anointed men of God that has ever lived in modern times.

As Gordon Lindsay wrote in his 1952 biography of Branham's early life and ministry: "The story of the life of William Branham is so out of this world and beyond the ordinary that were there not available a host of infallible proofs which document and attest its authenticity, one might well be excused for considering it far-fetched and incredible." (G. Lindsay, 'William Branham - A man sent from God', pg 9). Even his birth and childhood had unusual aspects to them. Born in 1909 in Kentucky, his family soon shifted to the state of Indiana, where they eventually settled not far from Jeffersonville. Branham's family were the "poorest of the poor". When he was seven years old, he experienced the first of many godly visitations: "It seemed to be a very still afternoon. I stepped back from the tree and noticed that in a certain place about the size of a barrel, the wind seemed to be blowing through the tree leaves. Then there came a voice saying: 'Never drink, smoke, or defile your body in any way, for I have a work for you to do when you get older.'" (Pg 30).

Branham obeyed these strictures, but he had still not been truly converted. When he was about twenty years of age, the death of his brother Edward caused him to again turn his thoughts toward God's call upon his life. However, he carried on the way he was going (essentially running away from God) for a couple of years. Finally, he ended up seriously ill - at death's door, in hospital. And suddenly God visited him again: "Closer the wind came, louder and louder... I heard that same voice that said, 'Never drink or smoke.' And the leaves I heard were the same that blew in that tree that day. But this time the voice said, 'I called you and you would not go.' The words were repeated the third time. Then I said, 'Lord, if that is you, let me go back again to earth and I will preach your gospel from the housetops and street corners. I'll tell everyone about it!'... When this vision had passed, I found that I felt better." (Pg 40-41).

However, Branham was not completely healed at this time. But he was now filled with a great hunger after God. "I started out to seek and find God. I went from church to church trying to find some place where there was an old-fashioned altar call. The sad part was I could find none... One night I became so hungry for God and a real experience that I went out to the old shed back of the house and tried to pray... All at once there came a light in the shed and it formed a cross, and the voice from the cross spoke to me in a language I could not understand... as I prayed it appeared again. Then it seemed to me that there had been a thousand pounds lifted from my soul...

"I knew then that if God wanted me to preach he would heal me, so I went to a church that believed in anointing with oil, and I was healed instantly. I saw then that the disciples had something that most of the ministers do not have today. The disciples were baptized with the Holy Ghost and so could heal the sick and do mighty miracles in His name. So I began to pray for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. One day about six months later God gave me the desire of my heart. He spoke to me in a great light telling me to preach and pray for the sick and He would heal them regardless of what disease they had. I then started preaching and doing what He told me to do." (Pg 41-42). Branham began tent meetings in his hometown of Jeffersonville, and for a 24-year-old who was just starting out, these were astonishingly successful, with up to 3000 people being attracted to the meetings at one time, and scores of conversions.

Afterwards when Branham was baptizing 130 converts in the Ohio River, a heavenly light, like a blazing star, appeared above him just as he was about to baptize the seventeenth person. This was witnessed by the vast 4000-strong congregation that stood on the banks of the river looking on. Some of them ran for fear, while others shouted or fainted. A report

of this unusual event appeared in the local newspaper shortly afterwards. It has also been reported that a voice spoke from within the light, saying, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of the Lord, so you are sent to forerun His second coming..." What is certain is that a heavenly light was seen, and it seems likely also that something along these lines was spoken over him.

It was in this same year of 1933 that a number of significant visions were given to William Branham. In June 1933 he was given a series of seven visions relating to world events that lay immediately ahead (and he told his congregation of these visions at the time). In the first of these he saw the Italian dictator Mussolini successfully invading Ethiopia, but eventually coming to a terrible demise - murdered and spat upon by his own people. In the second he saw America being drawn into a world war against Germany, which would be headed up by an Austrian. The war would overthrow this leader, and he would come to a mysterious end. The third vision showed the three 'isms' in the world - Fascism, Nazism and Communism, and that the first two would come to nothing, but that Communism would flourish. He was told, "Watch Russia. She will become a great world power." In the fourth vision he was shown some of the tremendous advances in Science that would come after the Second World War.

The fifth vision showed the rapid moral decay in the world, relating especially to women. He was shown this decline from the beginning of the feminist "liberation" movement of the late 19th century, and the gradual gaining of worldly power by women, to the eventual election of a 'boy president' (probably Kennedy - known to have been elected because of the women's vote) and after this the progressive decline in the way women dressed - deliberately exposing their bodies more and more in an ever-increasing display of brazen sensuality. With true womanhood so little valued, a terrible decay of all flesh came upon the earth, and every form of perversion arose, just as is prophesied for the Last Days.

In the sixth vision there arose in the United States a beautiful woman, clothed in splendour and royal robes - a woman given great power, and beautiful - yet cruel, cunning and deceitful. She dominated the land with her authority. Branham felt that she represented either an actual person, or else a particular organization (perhaps the Catholic church?) However, surely there is also the possibility that she represents a great "Jezebelic" spirit that utterly dominates the landscape? In the seventh and final vision, he witnessed a great explosion that rent the entire land and left America a smouldering, chaotic ruin, with no humanity in sight. This final vision then faded away. (This last one reminds me of another Branham vision/prophecy, which he referred to often in later years, that showed that the day would come when the entire state of California west of the San Andreas Fault, would be wiped out and sent into the Pacific Ocean by a massive earthquake).

The amazing thing about this series of seven visions is that they were given at a time (June 1933) when Branham had no way at all of coming to these conclusions through mere guesswork. In 1933 Germany was by no means ready for war, Russia was by no means a dominant world power, and Communism was a relatively minor force in the world. Some of the details given in the visions were just too extraordinary to pass off as mere coincidence. (See 'The Acts of the Prophet' by Pearry Green, pg 48-51, for a fuller description). Also, the fact is that these visions were given to an uneducated, simple man in the back-blocks of Indiana, a man who had little understanding at all of political complexities. And the fact that at least five of these visions have now been precisely fulfilled, means that we should surely take the others seriously also.

After the baptisms, a church was built for Branham to pastor in Jeffersonville. The next few years were a fruitful time in his life and ministry, during which he married a lovely Christian wife and they had two children. However, several years later Branham came to a crossroads and made a serious error of judgement that was to have serious repercussions for his family and ministry. After attending a Pentecostal convention for the first time (up until then he had been an independent Baptist), Branham was invited by these Pentecostals to become a travelling evangelist for them, and he felt that this was definitely a call from God. However, he allowed himself to be persuaded by friends that the Pentecostals were "trash" (they were known as 'holy rollers' at the time - the lowest of the low), and he drew back from joining with them.

"It was at this time that the anointing of God which had come upon me left me. It never really returned until five years later... Everything went wrong. With my church going down, I didn't know what to do. Then began the dark period of my life when the Ohio River flood that took so many lives, came, and was responsible for the death of two of those that were the dearest to me in all the world." (G. Lindsay, 'William Branham - A man sent from God', pg 51). The great Ohio River flood of 1937 claimed the lives of Branham's wife and baby daughter, and Branham was left heartbroken, with only his infant son left. This was only eight months after he had drawn back from obeying God and joining with the Pentecostals, and he himself acknowledged the tragic connection.

For a number of years after this, Branham continued to preach and also work at various jobs. He remarried, and when a new visitation of the angel of God came in 1946, he was working as an Indiana state game warden. This was to be the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

beginning of his international miracle ministry: "I must tell you of the angel and the coming of the Gift. I shall never forget the time, May 7, 1946, a very beautiful season of the year in Indiana, where I was still working as a game warden. I had come home for lunch... and while walking around the house under a maple tree, it seemed that the whole top of the tree let loose. It seemed that something came down through that tree like a great rushing wind... My wife came from the house frightened, and asked me what was wrong. Trying to get hold of myself, I sat down and told her that after all these twenty odd years of being conscious of this strange feeling, the time had come when I had to find out what it was all about. The crisis had come!

"That afternoon I went away to a secret place to pray and read the Bible. I became deep in prayer; it seemed that my whole soul would tear from me. I cried before God...I laid my face to the ground...I looked up to God and cried, 'If you will forgive me for the way that I have done, I'll try to do better... I'm sorry that I've been so neglectful all these years in doing the work you wanted me to do...Will you speak to me somehow, God? If you don't help me, I can't go on'... Then along in the night, about the eleventh hour, I had quit praying and was sitting up when I noticed a light flickering in the room... the light was spreading out on the floor, becoming wider... as I looked up, there hung that great star. However, it did not have five points like a star, but looked more like a ball of fire or light shining down upon the floor. Just then I heard someone walking across the floor...

"Now, coming through the light, I saw the feet of a man coming toward me, as naturally as you would walk to me. He appeared to be a man who, in human weight, would weigh about two hundred pounds, clothed in a white robe. He had a smooth face, no beard, dark hair down to his shoulders, of rather dark-complexion, with a very pleasant countenance, and coming closer, his eyes caught with mine. Seeing how fearful I was, he began to speak. 'Fear not. I am sent from the Presence of Almighty God to tell you that your peculiar life and your misunderstood ways have been to indicate that God has sent you to take a gift of divine healing to the peoples of the world. IF YOU WILL BE SINCERE, AND CAN GET THE PEOPLE TO BELIEVE YOU, NOTHING SHALL STAND BEFORE YOUR PRAYER, NOT EVEN CANCER.'" (Pg 76-77).

The angel told Branham that he would now have two special signs or gifts operating in his life, given to him by God. The first would enable him to detect or discern illnesses in people - a visible violent reaction in his left hand which would make it red and swollen whenever it came into contact with sickness. The second sign would be a gift that would enable him to discern the thoughts and deeds in the past life of the individual - specific sins that needed to be repented of, etc. It was often found that as Branham challenged people over such specific sins, and they confessed them to God, they would regularly be healed of whatever ailed them even before he had a chance to lay hands on them.

This angelic visitation marked the beginning of Branham's incredible international miracle ministry, and also led directly to the great American Healing Revival of 1947 through 1955, in which many well-known ministries were raised up, and thousands upon thousands of people were saved and healed. As Branham himself said, "The great things which have taken place during these months are too innumerable to ever be recorded, but God has confirmed the angel's words time after time. Deaf, dumb, blind, all manners of diseases have been healed, and thousands of testimonies are on record to date. I do not have any power of my own to do this... God always has something or someone to work through, and I am only an instrument used by Him." (Pg 78).

Right to the end of his life, William Branham was renowned for his transparency, his simplicity and his genuine humility. No doubt this was due in part to his early life of hardship, brokenness and poverty - a great advantage when it came to his eventual ministry. I have read several of his early sermons, and they often appeared to be little more than personal testimonies accompanied by a simple (yet effective) gospel message. There was little sign of the somewhat strange, divisive and controversial teachings of his latter years. After all, the angel had told him that part of his commission was to help UNIFY Christians of differing backgrounds. Speaking of Branham's "outstandingly humble spirit", one observer wrote: "There is nothing boisterous or arrogant about him. He is a meek and humble man... He is a man loved by all. No-one begrudges him any of his success or is envious of his great popularity." (David Harrell Jr, 'ALL Things are Possible', pg 39).

Over the following months and years, Branham travelled widely in the USA, and also to Europe and South Africa, etc. Thousands came from far and wide to hear him preach and to witness the many outstanding healings, miracles and 'words of knowledge' that accompanied his ministry. Often, he would call out the name, city of origin and background information of people in the audience whom he had never met, who had come to hear his preaching or to be healed. Of all the thousands of such 'words of knowledge' that he gave, none was ever known to be wrong or inaccurate. His gift was reportedly "exactly 100%". The deaf were healed, the blind received their sight, and even the dead were raised. There were also a number of meetings where Branham was photographed with bright 'haloes' or strange lights around him. It became standard for Branham to have the angel of God standing beside him as he ministered, and he would often wait for the an

gel to arrive before he began. It was also commonplace for Branham to see specific miracles enacted before his eyes in vision form several days before they actually occurred, so that when he found himself in the precise circumstance pictured in the vision, he would know exactly what to do. Astounding! And everywhere he went, God was glorified in the most profound way.

There can be no doubt that Branham was the initial pioneer and the key leader of the great Healing Revival of 1947 through 1955. During this Revival, literally dozens of healing ministries were raised up all over America, some well-known and others less prominent, but all of them inspired by the example of Branham and others. Thousands were saved and healed, not just in America, but in many other nations also. And the mighty 1954 Argentina Revival under Tommy Hicks (with meetings of up to 400,000 people) also had strong links with this Revival. Even amongst the better-known evangelists who came into prominence at that time (such as Oral Roberts, T.L. Osborne, A.A. Allen, Jack Coe, etc), William Branham was acknowledged as something special - something extraordinary. "The younger deliverance evangelists viewed him as a man set apart, like Moses. 'He was number one,' said Richard Hall, 'of the common run of evangelists that we have now, put twenty of them at one end and William Branham on the other; he would outweigh them all.'" (Winkie Pratney, 'Revival', pg 220-221).

Later in the 1950's, when a number of healing evangelists were drifting into showmanship, hype, 'prosperity' doctrines and begging for money, Branham would have none of it. He was unchanged in his attitude toward these kinds of excesses right to the very end. One observer wrote of him in 1959: "On my last visit I mentioned how 'car conscious' American preachers are, almost judging a man's success by the car he drives. At this particular conference, where Brother Branham was the principal speaker, they all came up in their nice cars, the picture of elegance, but Brother Branham drove up in a truck. He doesn't seem to worry about these things..." (D. Harrell Jr, 'ALL Things are Possible', pg 162).

However, there were crucial weaknesses in the practices and ministry of William Branham, which tragically began to manifest themselves in the mid-1950's. In 1955, largely through his own carelessness and lack of good management, Branham fell into financial difficulty. He had always been nonchalant, almost naive, toward all business matters. "He sometimes missed scheduled meetings and was totally unconcerned about business details. Some of his business associates came to feel that he was culpably irresponsible. At any rate, Branham came to write: 'For nine years, the Lord met every need without my having to pull for money. Then, in 1955, in each of three of my greatest meetings, the income fell far short of expenses and others stepped in to make up large deficits'... Branham's difficulties became more complicated in 1956 when the Internal Revenue Service filed a tax evasion suit against him... The unsophisticated Branham, apparently little interested in personal wealth, had made no systematic effort to account for the thousands of dollars that flowed through his ministry." (Ibid, pg 39-40). For the remainder of his life, Branham worked under the burden of a \$40,000.00 debt to the IRS. (Which was an enormous amount of money in those days).

It is obvious that God was little able to financially bless Branham's ministry any longer, due to the careless and dubious state of his financial management. This had clearly become a "legal gateway" through which the devil could now disrupt and tie-down Branham's ministry. And one of the most devastating results of this was that when most of the other prominent healing evangelists were called into large, mobile tent ministries (which God used very effectively at that time), Branham was unable to make this jump, due seemingly to the parlous state of his finances. Thus, his ministry immediately began to lose momentum, and it seemed that he was no longer on the 'cutting edge' of what God was doing.

By 1958, William Branham (along with many of the other healing evangelists) was deeply re-assessing his ministry. It was clear that the great Healing Revival was now well and truly over, and there can be little doubt that the decline in Branham's own ministry had contributed to this. You can never afford to lose such a leader in any move of God, as history clearly shows. It was after this that Branham began to gradually withdraw into his own little circle, where he had an adoring and loyal following. (Essentially this circle was made up of "Oneness" or 'Jesus-Only' Pentecostals). And instead of his previous unwillingness to speak about contentious or divisive 'minor' issues, he now gradually began to emphasize such things more and more in his preaching. Slowly, these teachings became ever-more alarming and extreme.

As early as 1957, Branham had received a dream in which he was ministering in a 'white disk' above a pyramid. A voice from heaven proclaimed that no other man could stand in the disk "unless he die or be killed", and that Branham was "the only one who can and will stand there." Branham apparently considered this dream to be of 'spiritual significance'. (Ibid, pg 41). By the 1960's, he had clearly become convinced that he was the end-times "Elijah" and the true "Messenger of the Covenant". And the adoring followers in his tight little circle were certainly not going to contradict him. A number of writers believe that it was when Branham took a 'teaching' ministry upon himself that he fell into error. It is clear that he had been anointed and commissioned by God to have a prophetic / evangelistic ministry, but never one of teaching. And as soon as he got into this area of teaching doctrine, he began to trespass into realms to which God had never called him

, thus opening himself up to ever-increasing deception. It has been reported that towards the end, some of his teachings almost bordered on the occult. However, the original sign-giftings that God had given him never left him, right up until the time of his death in 1965.

There were a number of men who tried to warn Branham, and to bring him back into some form of balance, including his respected colleague and old friend, Gordon Lindsay. But Branham would not listen: "Brother Lindsay said, 'I begged him not to teach. I said, "... Leave the Bible teaching to the teachers. Just go ahead and preach and exercise the word of knowledge and gifts of healing as the Spirit wills, and be a blessing to the Body of Christ.'" This prophet said to Brother Lindsay, 'I know I'm not a teacher, but I want to teach. And I'm going to teach!'

"It's dangerous to intrude into a ministry office to which you are not called. In the Old Testament, if people intruded into a holy place that was reserved for those who held certain offices, they instantly fell dead. Under grace, people in disobedience can last for a while, but sooner or later, those who intrude into ministry offices to which they are not called will be judged. It is dangerous to intrude into another man's office." (K. Hagin, 'He Gave Gifts unto Men', pg 164-170).

A full TWO YEARS before Branham died, Kenneth Hagin, who was renowned for his accurate prophetic ministry at that time, was given a prophecy about Branham which he took to Gordon Lindsay. The prophecy read: "At the end of 1965, He who now stands in the forefront of the healing ministry as a prophet will be taken out of the way. He'll make a false step and Satan shall destroy his life, but his spirit will be saved, and his works will follow him. Ere 1966 shall come, he shall be gone.'

"I took that prophecy to brother Lindsay, because it's scriptural to have other spiritual men judge prophecy. I never made it public. Prophets make a mistake by publicly broadcasting some of these things." God later told Hagin: "I had to permit him to be removed, because of the damage he was causing in the body of Christ..."

"... Then brother Lindsay related something else to me that had happened regarding this same prophet. He said to me, 'This past year, I was praying with my wife and sister Schrader about the work of the ministry. (Sister Schrader was a prophetess who has since gone on to be with the Lord.) We were praying about different projects in our ministry. Right in the middle of the prayer, Sister Schrader blurted out, 'Go warn Brother ... he's going to die.' Brother Lindsay said, 'I was busy, and I let that get by me, and I didn't go warn him like I was supposed to. Then later, my wife and I and Sister Schrader were again praying about ministry projects. Again Sister Schrader blurted out right in the middle of prayer, 'Go warn Brother ... he's going to die. He's walking in the way of Dowie.' After his morning meeting, Brother Lindsay said, 'I talked to him as the Lord had instructed me, but I saw that he wouldn't listen...' (K. Hagin, 'He Gave Gifts unto Men', pg 164-170). Please remember that Dowie had also got into error, proclaiming that he was the end-times "Elijah".

Gordon Lindsay's wife also confirmed the account given by Kenneth Hagin: "One day Kenneth Hagin came into our offices. He handed Gordon a piece of paper on which was written a prophecy he said the Lord had given him. The prophecy stated that the leader of the deliverance movement was soon to be taken in death, because he was getting into error and the Lord was having to remove him from the scene for that reason. Gordon took the prophecy and placed it in his desk. After Brother Hagin left I asked, 'What do you think about this? Is this Branham?' Gordon answered gravely, 'Yes, it is Branham. He is getting into error. He thinks he is Elijah. He thinks he is the messenger of the covenant. The sad thing is that unscrupulous men around him are putting words into his mouth, and due to his limited background he is taking them up.'" (Mrs Gordon Lindsay, 'My Diary Secrets', Sixth Edition, pg 152).

Two years later, when driving to Tucson, Arizona, William Branham was involved in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. His wife was badly injured in the smash, and Branham's body was horribly tangled in the wreck. He lingered on for a few days in hospital, though his head became terribly swollen and a tube was placed in his throat to assist his breathing. William Branham died on Christmas Eve, 1965, just before the turn of the year, exactly as the prophecy had predicted. Once more - "How have the mighty fallen". Satan had again succeeded in 'taking out' one of God's great servants. And there can be little doubt that God's full purposes for Branham's life and ministry remained at least partially unfulfilled. There was talk amongst a few of Branham's followers that he might rise from the dead after several days, but it is clear that only a relatively small number believed this. (Such Branham-followers can still be found around the world today, some of whom adore him with a fervour bordering almost on idolatry - a sad and tragic epitaph to a once-mighty man of God).

THE LESSONS WE MUST LEARN

Some people believe that the coming move of God will be so powerful and so awesome that it will be almost impossible

for the ministries involved in it to fall into error or into sin. I simply cannot go along with this. History clearly demonstrates that the greater the power, the greater the potential for subtle pride and error to enter in. This is why God has taken so long in preparing His future (now hidden) ministries for the coming move. Please remember that Satan himself was once one of the most splendid and powerful creatures in all of Heaven - an 'anointed Cherubim' of the highest order, who walked in the very presence of God. The Creator Himself said of him: "You were the ANOINTED CHERUB who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were PERFECT in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you" (Ez 28:14-15). "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" (Is 14:12). If such a creature as this - walking in the very presence of God - can fall from grace, then so can we, even at the height of a powerful God-given ministry.

Re: - posted by thevoice (), on: 2004/4/13 0:41

I just finished reading all the posts about the topic of William Branham. I took time and found out for myself, and will encourage everyone to check out some of what He preached and study yourself instead of going by hearsay or theology. In fact a website www.lwbwb.org is offering His biography for free. That's where I started from, and I am learning a lot, as I compare what William Branham is teaching with my KJV Bible instead of theology, such as what was written by Andrew Strom quoted above. I have made time to read the article and compared with the Bible and also with what William preached. It's more theology than bible facts. I believe my bible instead of theology.

Please make time and check what William Branham preached before you condemn. Be slow to condemn! What if he was used by the Holy Ghost? You may end up blaspheming the Holy Ghost!

I am not a follower William Branham nor a sympathizer of William Branham followers!

I seek to follow Christ with prayer and study my bible daily.
John

Re: - posted by lwpray (), on: 2004/4/13 1:17

If one goes through Mr. Branham's "theological" material, one knows that he was a false teacher. Concerning his miracles, we all know that he gave himself to an angel to communicate whatever changes in human constitution he was able to bring about. Dear friends, follow hard after the Lord. Follow men who stay biblically sound. Do not run after miracle-mongers. (I had an awful week in Rovno, Ukraine, some years ago, preaching among Pentecostals. The interpreter belonged to the Branham camp. He preached branhamism while interpreting me. Between meetings he tried to indoctrinate me and the pastors present at the conference. I was able to borrow the main items from Branham's pen. Awful deviations...) Lars W.

Re: What can I find out about William Branham - posted by thevoice (), on: 2004/4/14 3:06

As you have rightly judged, William Branham was no theologian educated from a great bible school like you, for he did not even have a high school education. So was Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul, Oral Roberts, Tommy Osborne, Dwight Moody and many many others used by God. In fact the bible was not written by theologians, but common people who had a revelation and a relationship with Jesus Christ, but rejected by theologians of the day. I'd rather have a true revelation of who God is, than theology. Yes and if you judge William Branham sermons by theology, He was mixed up. Why not get his bio book free or his sermons from <http://www.lwbwb.org> and look for discrepancies from the bible point of view, instead of theological point of view. I'd like to have a discussion with any one who has or reads any of William Branham's sermons. I am still searching!
John

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2004/4/14 10:23

Hi, I would ask that you **don't** replicate posts and advertise a website in **every** post you make. There is a Zero policy on spamming in these forums, I appreciate your attention to this matter in your further correspondence.

Re: - posted by todd, on: 2004/4/14 20:15

Greg,
Thanks for posting that article on Branham. Very helpful and seemingly well researched. I was disappointed that he didn't give any direct references of Branham claiming to be Elijah. I haven't found that yet but many claim it's true.
The voice, or anyone else, if you can give a direct reference to where Branham makes this claim I would greatly appreciate it.

Re: William Branham's Ministry - posted by lcxor, on: 2004/4/15 9:24

Consider this my friends..

William Marrion Branham was one of the most influential Bible ministers of our time. He was considered by many to be the initiator of the healing and charismatic revival that began in 1947, and from his ministry there sprang a myriad of other ministers who became internationally known. One Historian of that movement stated that William Branham was "a prophet to our generation", and a Pentecostal Historian wrote, "Branham filled the largest stadiums and meeting halls in the world." The Full Gospel Men's Voice, (now, Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International), in its February 1961 issue, wrote: "In Bible Days, there were men of God who were Prophets and Seers. But in all the Sacred Records, none of these had a greater ministry than that of William Branham, a Prophet and Seer of God, whose photograph appears on the front cover of this issue of Full Gospel Men's Voice. Branham has been used by God, in the Name of Jesus, to raise the dead!" From 1947 until the time of his passing in 1965, the powerful ministry of William Branham was well known and considered unparalleled in the history of gospel meetings. The impact of the supernatural ministry of this one man was felt not only in North America, but also around the world.

Early Life And Conversion:

William Branham was born April 6, 1909 in a log cabin in the Kentucky hills, the first of nine children of Charles and Ella Branham. Reared near Jeffersonville, Indiana, he knew only a life of deep poverty and hardship, his father being alcoholic and illiterate. Compounding these circumstances, the young boy was considered "nervous", because from an early age he spoke of "visions" and "a voice" which spoke to him out of a wind, saying, "Don't ever drink, or smoke, or defile your body in any way. There will be a work for you to do when you get older."

William Branham came to know the Lord and was filled with the Holy Spirit in 1931. From that time, the Bible became the focus of his life and Jesus Christ the center of his very existence! He was ordained to the ministry at the age of 23 years, in the Missionary Baptist Church in December of 1932.

Visitations Of An Angel:

On June 11, 1933, William Branham was baptizing in the Ohio River near Jeffersonville, Indiana, when a bright fiery light suddenly appeared over his head and a voice spoke out, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, so are you sent to forerun His second coming!" The next edition of the Jeffersonville Evening News reported the incident with the subheading, "Mysterious Star Appears Over Minister While Baptizing".

In May of 1946, he set himself aside to seek God for the meaning of his strange life. As he prayed alone late one night, an angel of light appeared, saying, "Do not fear. I am sent from the presence of Almighty God to tell you that your peculiar birth and misunderstood life has been to indicate that you are to take a gift of Divine healing to the peoples of the world. If you will be sincere when you pray and can get the people to believe you, nothing shall stand before your prayer, not even cancer. You will go into many parts of the earth and will pray for kings and rulers and potentates. You will preach to multitudes the world over and thousands will come to you for counsel." This was literally fulfilled in the years that followed, for his ministry took him around the world seven times and many individuals of public influence, including Congressman Upshaw of the U.S.A., and King George VI of England, were healed as a result of his prayers.

On the night of January 24, 1950, one of the most amazing photographs (left photo) of all time was taken in the Sam Houston Coliseum, Houston, Texas. As William Branham stood at the podium, a halo of fire appeared above his head. This picture was the only one that turned out on the entire film! George J. Lacy, Investigator of Questioned Documents, and often hired by the FBI in that capacity, subjected the negative to every scientific test available. At a news conference, he stated, "To my knowledge, this is the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural being has been photographed and scientifically vindicated." The original of this photograph is kept in the archives of the Religious

Department of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

Worldwide Ministry:

As news spread of miraculous healings, pastors from all around began to call Bro. William Branham to minister for their congregations and pray for the sick. A supernatural sign had been given him for the purpose of encouraging the people to believe. Firstly, a physical sign in his hand would indicate a disease or healing. Later on in his ministry the secret thoughts and needs of individuals were revealed, resulting in faith for deliverance. It became abundantly clear to any serious Bible reader, that William Branham was ordained a Prophet to fulfill the many scriptural prophecies concerning our time. Churches could not accommodate the crowds, and the meetings moved to large auditoriums or stadiums for united campaigns in the major cities of North America. Jonesboro, Arkansas - "Evening Sun" Newspaper June 12, 1947. "Residents of at least 25 States and Mexico have visited Jonesboro since Rev. Branham opened the camp meeting, June 1st. The total attendance for the services is likely to surpass the 20,000 mark." Helsinki, Finland - 1950

Two years prior to the Helsinki campaign, God had shown Bro. Branham a vision of a boy being raised from the dead. He related the details to his audiences and asked them to write the vision in the flyleaf of their Bibles. The vision was fulfilled at the scene of an accident, near Kuopio, Finland, where a boy on a bicycle had been struck by a car and killed. The Branham party traveling in a motorcade came upon the scene and Brother Branham, asking that the sheet covering the body be removed, recognized the boy to be the same one he had seen in the vision. He prayed and the child was raised from the dead. Durban, South Africa - 1951 Meetings were sponsored by The Apostolic Faith Mission, the Assemblies of God, the Pentecostal Holiness and the Full Gospel Church of God and conducted in eleven cities, with a combined attendance of a half a million people! Church history was made on the final day of the Durban meetings, held at the Greyville Racecourse, where an estimated 45,000 people were in attendance and thousands more turned away at the gates!

Consider these scriptures:

Malachi 4:5 and 6 is two-fold, fulfilled in part in the ministry of John, the Baptist. He preceded the first coming of Jesus Christ, called the "great" day of the Lord, turning the hearts of the fathers of the "law" to the children of the New Testament era of "grace." As stated in Jamieson, Fausset & Brown Commentary on the Whole Bible, "Â... John the Baptist was an Elijah in spirit (Luke 1:16,17) but not the literal Elijah (John 1:21). This implies that John, knowing he was referred to by Malachi 4:5, knew by inspiration that he did not exhaustively fulfil all that is included in this prophecy: that there is a further fulfillment. There is a prophet that will fulfill the second part of this scripture, forerun the second coming of Christ and "turn the hearts of the children to their fathers.." Literally, a ministry that will turn the hearts of a backslidden generation back to the Word of God and the faith of our "early church" fathers before the "dreadful day of the Lord", the second coming of Christ in judgment.

Again, Matthew 17:10-12 is two-fold. Firstly, "Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" "Â... But I say unto you, That Elias is come already and they knew him not Â..." speaking of John the Baptist. Secondly, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Speaking of a future forerunner to precede Christ's second coming.

The ministry of William Branham involved three distinct stages that he referred to as "pulls". The First Pull: Healing. Second Pull: Prophesying. Third Pull: The opening or revealing of the Word of God.

The ministry of Jesus Christ followed exactly the same pattern. First Pull: multitudes flocked to hear his gracious words and to receive His miraculous healing touch. Second Pull: Revealed the secrets of the hearts. (John 4:17-18) Third Pull: His "message", the Word of God which came in strength and contrary to the religious order of the day, caused the multitudes to leave him.

"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." John. 6:66

In December 1962 God gave William Branham a vision of an angelic visitation which he foretold in a message "Sirs is this the Time?" On February 28, 1963, the vision and prophecy was fulfilled when a constellation of seven angels, formed as the head of Christ, met him with a commission to speak the opening of the Seven Seals of Revelation. Life Magazine (May 17th 1963) carried the photograph (right figure) of this supernatural event, describing it as a "Mystery Cloud over Arizona."

To the millions of believers around the world who have heard and received the Message which God has sent through

His prophet, William Branham, the Word of God has opened up as never before in history. Jesus Christ has come into plain view through the pages of revealed scripture. World events no longer cause alarm, for all is unfolding as it should, fulfilling Bible prophecy!

We urge all sincere readers to be as the Bereans in Act 17:11 who "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

[Image: <http://www.spokenwordchurch.com/pof.jpg>] [Image: <http://www.spokenwordchurch.com/cloud.jpg>]

Re: - posted by jeremyhulsey (), on: 2004/4/15 10:26

"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying 'Let us go after other gods'--which you have not known--and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" Deut. 13:1-3

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. BUT (emphasis added) even if we, or an ANGEL (emphasis added) from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:6-8

William Branham preached another gospel and a different Jesus. His account with "holy rollers" that he gives was with the heretical "Jesus Only" movement that he later was caught up in. His account of his conversion reads more like that of the spiritism that was so popular in his day, and that of another man named Joseph Smith.

In Christ,
Jeremy Hulsey

Re: What can I find out about William Branham - posted by jkathiresan, on: 2010/11/26 6:57

Dear Brother,

He is a true and vindicated prophet sent by God. He is like John the Baptist. All his doctrines are 100% biblical doctrines and fully supported by bible verses.

If you have any queries, doubts i'm ready and willing to answer and help.

Remember, Jesus is rejected 2000 years ago. Rejection will always happen to prophets in all the time. Denominations are man made creed, dogmas and own interpretations. God never made denominations in any point of time.

Analyze the scriptures you will come to know the truth.

Please send email to j_kathiresan@yahoo.co.in

you can also hear sermons from the below web-sites to know more about his doctrines, life, message etc.,

1) Hear the archived Sermons from <http://www.eveninglight.net/>

2) <http://www.bcfellowship.org/>

3) <http://www.happyvalleychurch.com/>

With Love,
Samuel

Re: - posted by Renoncer, on: 2010/11/26 11:58

You may want to look up Justin Peters. Here's an excerpt of his research:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21YYN2E7xkY&feature=BF&list=QL&index=1>