



The Log Cabin. by artist Jerry Doell.

The Acts of the Prophet.  
Rev. Pearry Green.  
Chapter 5.  
English.

## Early Life and Conversion.

Perhaps from the proceeding discussion you can see why I believe William Marrion Branham was the prophet of God for this generation, sent to bring the Word of God, finish the mysteries of God, to restore the

things that have gone off into error. For those who do not know the details of his life, I would like to share some of them with you, that you too might have the same opportunity I had when I read the book "A Man Sent from God" by Brother Gordon Lindsay. Perhaps you will see, as I did, God's special plan for his life from the time of his birth. For comparison, let us first examine other instances in the Bible of men chosen from birth.

Chapter 1 of 1 Samuel relates how Samuel's mother gave him to the Lord before he was even born. As soon as he was weaned he was taken to the Temple, where his mother presented him to Eli the high priest to be raised in service to the Lord. When he was yet a child, as recorded in 1 Samuel 3:1, he *"ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days: there was no open vision."* I ask the reader to consider the parallel in the twentieth century. Where and by whom, was the word of the Lord coming by "open vision" before Brother Branham entered the evangelistic scene? Though there were some people with visions, yet there was certainly no great move of Divine Healing in the world. Nor was there revival as the world has since experienced. The revival began in 1946 and continued until about 1957, but has since died from the climax reached in the late 40's and early 50's. So, as it was in the days of Samuel, there was "no open vision" because no prophet of God was on the scene until Brother Branham.

When Samuel was but a child, God spoke to him for the first time. He called unto him three times. Each time Samuel answered thinking the voice was Eli's. Finally Eli told him to go back and lie down and the next time it happened to say "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth." Then in 1 Samuel 3:11 we read,

*"And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle."*

The mighty God, was revealed to Samuel, "by the word of the Lord," though Samuel was but a child; and the ears of those that heard of it were to tingle with excitement for those things which the Lord was to do. (Now, if you will listen to the things that God has done in this generation, your ears may tingle too - through the hearing of things you had no knowledge of, through the happenings in your generation in the life of Brother Branham.)

God first showed Samuel something that Eli was doing wrong. Samuel, because he loved Eli,

had no wish to tell Eli of his error, but the priest convinced him he should speak the words of the Lord, no matter whom it might hurt. Thus it was, according to verse 19, that

*"Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground."*

If Samuel said it, God did it. So the Lord blessed the people with His presence, as told in verse 21,

*"And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel by the word of the Lord."*

Throughout the Scriptures, whenever God has manifested Himself, revealed Himself, made Himself plain, He has done it by sending His Word through a prophet of God.

Nor was Samuel just one isolated case of a child being called unto God as a prophet. Jeremiah 1:4-5 records,

*"Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."*

Thus the great prophet Jeremiah was foreordained a prophet unto the nations before he ever came forth from his mother's womb. Jeremiah said, Jeremiah 1:6-10,

*"Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me,*

*Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*

*Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.*

*Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.*

*See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."*

God placed it in the heart of the mother of Moses when Moses was but a baby, to set him aside as a chosen vessel. God had him trained in Pharaoh's house, then took him to the wilderness for forty years and trained him further, and finally sent him back as the deliverer of the nation of Israel. Notice that God didn't wait until Moses was fifty years old. He started working in Moses' life when he was but a baby, the day he was born.

Thus we see that prophets are not men who come to this earth and grow up and make such sacrificial efforts unto God, or cry, weep, pray and fast until God endues them with supernatural powers, but rather are chosen by God from their mother's womb and brought to

the place where they are so free from sin, that sin cannot cause God's word to err. The further they are separated from sin, the more in servitude they are unto Almighty God.

It is an absolute necessity to hear a prophet sent by God, for he is the voice of God speaking to the world at the time God sends him. As we have just read, God took Jeremiah, a mere child and said, "The words that you speak are not your words, they are My words, and I have put you in authority over the nations. If you say tear it down, I'll tear it down. If you say build it up, I'll build it up." Can you see that this is God's provided way ? Does not the third chapter of the book of Acts tell us how necessary it is, and what judgment there is upon those who fail to listen to the prophets of God ?

Now is it possible for God to send a prophet in the twentieth century? Personally, I believe that He did, fulfilling His Word. I thank God for the keeping of His Word, for without it I would have been working in blind denominationalism. I would have been following the traditions of men, believing them to be the doctrines of God. I saw that God had done these things down through the ages, and I saw God doing the same works now that the prophets did then. I saw that the Scriptures predicted this was to happen. It was then that I said, "Sir, I perceive you to be a prophet of God." I did not hesitate, because it was a revelation to my heart.

On April 6, 1909, a fifteen year old Kentucky mother gave birth to a baby boy. They named him William Marrion Branham, and on the day that he was born there was a strange aura, a Presence, in the rustic little log cabin. A light came whirling in the window and hung over the crib. No wonder the people who saw it said, "What manner of child shall this be?"

When the baby was but six months old, God's protection over him was demonstrated for the first time. He and his mother, stranded in the cabin while his father was away on a job, were miraculously saved from certain death. A great snow storm had isolated the cabin, food and firewood ran out, so the young mother simply wrapped herself and her baby in all the bedclothes that they had and went to bed, waiting for the end.

But a neighbor, a little way off, by some strange phenomenon, that he couldn't explain, had for several days felt attracted to visit the little cabin to see how his neighbors were doing. One day the urge came upon him so strong that he was not able to resist it; he crossed the hills to the cabin and found the mother and child nearly perished. Quickly he gathered firewood and built a fire, made a trip back to his home for nourishment, and nursed them back to health. Thus only by a strange Presence that the man could not explain, was he drawn to come at that hour and save the life of this particular six-month old boy.

At the age of three, Brother Branham received his first vision. From this vision, he knew to tell his mother that though they now lived in Kentucky, someday they would live near a city called New Albany. It was not long after that the family moved from Kentucky across the Ohio River to Indiana and a little later moved a few miles south to Jeffersonville, Indiana, which is just a few miles from New Albany, Indiana. The vision was fulfilled.

At the age of seven, Brother Branham had another strange experience that he was unable to understand. It happened one day that, while assisting his father, he found himself passing underneath a poplar tree when a strange wind shook the leaves in the tree, though there was no other wind that day. He related that a whirlwind stirred a section of tree about the size of a barrel and a Voice spoke from it saying, "Never smoke, drink, nor defile your body, for when you are older there is a work for you to do." He couldn't understand the mysterious event, it frightened him, and he ran to his mother. She thought he had been snake bitten, then thought he may just have been in nervous shock, so she put him to bed and called the doctor.

A few days later, while he was playing with friends he saw a vision of a bridge. This bridge that was not there, extended across the Ohio River from Louisville to Jeffersonville. He told his friends that he could see the bridge there and, to his horror, he saw a portion of the bridge collapse, carrying sixteen men to their deaths. Of course his friends told this around the community. But thirteen years later that bridge was built at the cost of the lives of sixteen men. The bridge stands today, between Jeffersonville and Louisville.

Once as a young man, a girl made fun of him because he wouldn't smoke, and he actually tried to smoke to stop her derision. His testimony is that as he reached for the cigarette he heard the whirlwind again, and the more he tried, the stronger it became, until its rushing sound frightened him. So he never did smoke.

Another time a man offered him a drink in the presence of young William Branham's father, and insisted that he take it. He was about to take the drink, because his own father called him a sissy, when the whirlwind came again. He could hear it rushing, and as he continued to put the bottle to his lips, the wind became stronger until it frightened him and he ran off. He did not disobey God, indeed he could not, for God had a plan for his life which He was bringing to pass.

As a teenager he once went to a carnival, and there a fortune teller, walked up to him and said, "Young man, did you know that there is a sign following you?" How similar to the time when the evil spirit said to Jesus, "We know who you are, thou art the Christ, the Son of God." The priests and the religious leaders, the most religious people in the world at the time of Christ, didn't recognize Him, though the evil spirits did. So it was in Brother Branham's life.

When the Apostle Paul went to Thyatira to preach, he was not welcomed, but was put in stocks, and a young girl said, "This is Paul, who preaches Christ unto us, the message of salvation." There was an evil spirit in her that recognized who Paul was when the others sought to persecute him. So it was in this generation. The evil spirits could recognize that there was something different about Brother Branham before the religious people of the world would admit it. Many still won't admit to the workings of God through this man. They refuse to recognize that here was something far above and beyond the ordinary. Could it be because they, though "religious," are not even spiritual?

Bother Branham almost died for the second time at the age of fourteen. Accidentally shot,

lying in his own blood with parts of his legs shot away where the blast of a shotgun had struck him, he had a vision, or experience while in the hospital, where he himself faded away and he saw people in hell. He saw things that were to take place among the women of the world in the 1960's, the grotesque use of makeup and the like. But these women were in hell and it shocked him to realize there was such a place. Yet, he resisted the call of God on his life, though God continued to deal with him, for there was a work for him to do when he was older.

He came west to Phoenix, Arizona, in December 1927, at the age of eighteen. It was there while working on a ranch, that he received word of the death of his brother Edward, who was closest to him in age. When he heard of Edward's death, he stood and looked out across the desert, and asked himself whether Edward had been ready to meet God. Then as he made the journey back to Jeffersonville to the funeral, the question came to him, "Are you ready?" He recalled how his father and mother wept and the great impact this had on his life as he began to wonder about himself. He was ever aware of this Voice, this Presence that he had experienced since he was a baby, wishing to speak with him.

It separated him from the other boys his age, preventing their friendship because he spoke of strange things and he wouldn't smoke, drink, dance, or run around as they did. Though he couldn't pattern his life after theirs, yet he didn't know how to surrender himself to God. But through the death of Edward, the Spirit of God continued to be with him and brought him to where he actually tried to pray. He didn't know how, but loving the wilderness, he wrote on a piece of paper, "God help me." He left the note stuck on a tree because he knew that God was there in nature.

Finally the day arrived when he went to the woodshed beside the house, knelt down, and though he still did not know how to pray, cried out in simplicity. That was enough to open the windows of Heaven. As he knelt in a woodshed to pray, a Light came in and formed a cross. It was then that something swept over him and he experienced an exquisite feeling he had never known before. He once told me personally that it felt like rain was pelting down on his body. He realized later that God had baptized him with the Holy Ghost. He said it seemed like a thousand pound load had lifted off his shoulders. With no other way to express his extreme joy and relief, he stood to his feet and began to leap and run about. He ran into the house and his puzzled mother asked him what was wrong. "I don't know," he replied, "I just feel so light." He ran out of the house and down the road, using the only way he knew to express his elation.

Later while working for the Public Service Company, he was exposed to some gas, was poisoned, and became very ill. An operation was performed during which he almost left this life again. The situation was grave until a supernatural event took place as a Light came and hung before him. The doctors didn't expect him to live. When he did survive, one of the doctors came to his room after the operation and said, "Truly, God has visited this boy." Brother Branham said that at the time he didn't know what was happening, but that if he had known then what he learned later, he would have leapt from the bed rejoicing, healed in the name of the Lord. After he left the hospital he sought a deeper experience with God,

because he realized that God had done a great thing for him.

He was left with serious stomach and eye problems which the doctors did not expect him to recover from. However he heard of a group of people who believed in the laying on of hands for healing. At their church meeting, somebody laid hands upon him, and he accepted his healing of the problems that remained from the gas exposure.

Despite continuing to throw up if he ate solid food, God honored his faith and over a number of months, he was delivered of the stomach problem and when his vision was assessed, it was found to be perfect.

It was after this miraculous healing that he first began preaching. At his very first meeting, people were baptized and on June 11, 1933, another supernatural event occurred which will be covered in detail in chapter 6.

Tremendous things began to take place in his life in 1933, which would require a book in itself to relate completely. But as Brother Branham began to preach and build his church, God gave him visions, and I can truly say that God began to be revealed, because the Word of God was coming by way of "open vision." Thus after a lapse of centuries, God had once again visited the people of this generation through a prophet. He had sent a prophet chosen from his mother's womb, and had ordained this man's life from childhood, molding him as He did the other men of God in the Scriptures.

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