



The Pillar of fire over the prophet.  
A camera record of a supernatural light.

## The Angel Appears.

The book of Acts records many spiritual events which happened to the men of God during the first century of the Church. The Apostle Paul was one of those men whose life was constantly touched by strange experiences. Even his conversion as we saw in Chapter 6, was strange, where he was smitten down with a Light brighter than the midday sun. Likewise strange was the light that appeared June 11, 1933, over the Ohio river, in the presence of many hundreds of witnesses, when a voice spoke from it and gave Brother Branham his commission. The previous chapters tell of the strange birth of

Brother Branham and many of the strange happenings, such as whirlwinds appearing, voices speaking to him, and fortune tellers telling him there was a sign following him. So it was with Paul and the strange phenomena in his life through which we glorify God. Think how marvelous that God dealt with Paul in this manner, and compare his experiences with those of Brother Branham.

One of Paul's strangest experiences concerned a heavenly visitation which occurred when he was being sent to Rome as a prisoner, under charge of a captain of Roman soldiers. Before they embarked from Crete, Paul had told the captain of the ship that they should not set sail. But the captain being a man of the sea, considered that he knew the tides, wind conditions, weather, and the sea better than Paul, so he set sail anyway. They were only a few days from the island when they were set upon by a fierce storm. They threw tackle and freight overboard to lighten the ship lest it sink and all perish. Paul was silent for a time until, as we read in Acts 27:21,22:

<sup>21</sup> *But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.*

<sup>22</sup> *And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.*

You will have to admit that this was a very strange statement for a man, himself a prisoner, to make to those in charge of the ship. When everybody was fearing for their lives, he was saying that they should have listened to him, but now they should be of good cheer, for none would perish, though the ship would be lost. Upon what authority would a man like Paul, a prisoner, speak such a statement? Verse 23 says:

<sup>23</sup> *For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,*

<sup>24</sup> *Saying, Fear not, Paul; (Note that the angelic being first calmed the fears of the man, Paul, by telling him not to fear) thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.*

<sup>25</sup> *Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.*

Now why did Paul speak with such authority? It was because God sent an angel to stand by him and Paul spoke the words that this angel told him. Since the angel was a messenger of God, Paul could say "Thus saith God," You know how the story ended. The ship was lost, though they tried to get through every other way. Once they were going to kill the prisoners lest they escape, and Paul stopped them. The sailors once tried to go overboard and get away from the rest of them and Paul told them not to do that either. Paul knew that God had a way to save them, because he had been told there would be no loss of life. You see how important it is to keep the word of God? If God sent an angel to tell Paul how it was to be done, that was the way it had to be done. Paul couldn't change it. The captain couldn't change it. The military man couldn't change it. It had to be exactly like the Angel of God said to Paul. Now as we read this story, we rejoice in our hearts about an angel appearing to Paul, but I won't testify of an angel that appeared to a man of God in this twentieth century.

After Brother Branham's strange early life, after his conversion, the years passed by, and he served God to the best of his ability as a pastor and laborer in the kingdom of God. He even held a job as a game warden in Indiana. The beginning of what was to be a tremendous change in his life and ministry occurred in early March, 1946 when he returned home for lunch and walked beneath a maple tree in the front yard of his home, on 8th street in Jeffersonville, Indiana. As he passed underneath the tree, he relates that a mighty, rushing wind came into the tree. It hit the top of the maple tree and it seemed to him that the tree would be torn apart. The tremendous impact caused him to stagger. His wife and others ran to him, thinking that he had become ill. He turned to her and said these words, "For over twenty years I've not been able to understand this ministry, this strange feeling on myself. I can't go on like this. I've got to have the answer. Is this of God? What is it all about?"

He told her that he was going away, that he would leave her and Billy Paul to seek God with his Bible and prayer and that he would find out the answer or he would not come back. (His sermon "Desperation" tells how one must become desperate in his desire to have God in his life.) Think how desperate he must have been in this hour to tell his wife that he wouldn't be back without an answer from God. I think of that as practicing what he preached. What a difficult thing for a man to resolve to do. What dedication to God - to know Him or die. May it be so in all our lives.

Having made up his mind and stated his intentions, Brother Branham went alone to seek God in a secret place, determined to know the answer and to find peace in his heart about this strange feeling and these phenomena. Hiding himself away from everyone and going to a secret place of prayer where he would not be disturbed, he cast himself down upon his face prostrate before God. Now in the book "A man sent from God" there is mention made (as Brother Branham often stated) that he was at the ranger's cabin at Green's Mill. That cabin

no longer stands: it has deteriorated and rotted to the ground. Brother Branham speaking on his tape *Life Story* did not tell all the little details, as he told his wife and children, and as he told me personally: but where he went that night, though at the ranger's cabin, was in a little cave near the cabin. God, sometime or another in Brother Branham's younger life, had led him to a cave which he has spoken of often in his later tapes and where he said no man could find it. The cave is furnished by nature as though for his very own use, for inside there is a round rock shaped like a table, a rock shaped like a chair, and also a place for a man to lie down and sleep. He put none of this there - it simply was there. To my knowledge, the only person that has ever been to this cave beside Brother Branham is his wife, Sister Meda. He once took her there.

There have been men who have spent five or six days in those woods searching for it, and its location still remains a secret. But Brother Branham told me he was in the cave when the angel appeared to him. I hope that this is not a stumbling block to some who felt that, since Brother Branham said, "at ranger's cabin," and because he mentions the word "floor," and looking out the "window," that he must have been inside a cabin. Since no one has seen the cave, we don't know what it looks like, except from the description. But he told me he was inside the cave when the angel appeared to him on May 7, 1946. Just as in 1964, when I said, "*Sir, I perceive you to be a prophet.*" he said, "*Brother Pearry, I don't say anything about it in public, because people don't understand what a prophet is.*" I am sure that he didn't mention the cave as often in his early ministry as he did later on because he didn't want to have to explain it to everybody. he could just say that he was at the ranger's cabin and, since it was in that locality, that would suffice, because he wasn't willing to tell anybody where the cave was anyway.

Brother Branham lay prostrate on his face in the cave before God. When he had prayed his heart out in sincerity, asking God, he said that he sat up and waited for an answer. He was just sitting there, waiting for God to speak back. How many times have we heard him say, "they that wait upon the Lord ..." So often when we pray, we do all the talking, and as soon as we are through talking, we get up and leave. He said that the secret is after you have prayed to have patience to wait until God speaks back. That is if you believe God has heard you, then wait for the answer. Brother Branham had committed himself to the will of God in his life.

It was about the 11th hour that he saw a soft light appearing before him. He looked up and rose to move toward this light and there hung that great star. It didn't have five points like a star, but looked more like a ball of fire. Then, he heard footsteps, and a man of great stature approached him. The man weighed perhaps two hundred pounds, had a dark complexion, no beard, with shoulder length hair. As the man caught his eye, Brother Branham became very fearful, but the stranger looked at him in a kindly manner and began to speak. Just as the angel stood by Paul and gave him instructions, so this angel stood by Brother Branham and gave him instructions. I have placed these instructions here in seven separate categories:

"*Fear not,*" said the angel, putting Brother Branham at ease, and continued, saying, "*I am a messenger, sent unto you from the presence of Almighty God.*" That was the first phase, calming any fears and identifying himself.

In the second phase, he spoke to Brother Branham about his life, saying, *"I want you to know that your strange life has been for a purpose in preparing you to do a job that God has ordained for you to do from your birth."*

Third phase: the angel telling him that there were some conditions that he must meet and keep. He said, *"If you will be sincere, and you can get the people to believe you..."* And then he went on to the fourth phase - the results:

He said,; *"...nothing will stand before your prayers, not even cancer!"*

Now notice the words of the angel so far. He put Brother Branham at ease and identified himself. He told him that he knew about his past life and purpose. He also told him he had to be sincere, and that people had to believe him. I want to say this in my own words: If an Angel of God told Brother Branham that *he* must be sincere, how much more so must we be told to be sincere? Also it was important that he get people to believe, therefore, if you don't believe Brother Branham to be a prophet of God for this age, then his message and his ministry were not for you.

The fifth phase of the angel's message was a warning to the people to confess their sins before they came before this man of God, and that he was to tell the people that their thoughts speak louder before the throne of God than do their words. This was a warning to all mankind.

Then the angel went to the sixth phase and told Brother Branham things concerning his life and future ministry. He was told that he would preach before multitudes all over the world and that he would stand in packed auditoriums, with people turned away for lack of room. His church in Jeffersonville would become a centralized place where people would come from all over the world, seeking his prayers for their deliverance. (Remember, Brother Branham was an uneducated, despised, rejected young man in that city. There were times, because of the life of his father, that he would walk down the street and people would cross over the street to keep from walking by a Branham.

They had been so poor that he didn't even have a shirt to wear to school, so he'd wear his coat and button it all the way to the top. One day when he was eight, he wanted to write a poem that came to his mind and he had to borrow a pencil and a piece of paper from a classmate. He didn't have any of his own. Yet, here an Angel of God was standing and telling him of a fabulous ministry to take place. Sister Branham tells me that when he came home and told this, and when he received his call to his first meeting in St Louis, Missouri, that she had to take his white shirts and remove the worn collars and turn them over because he was too poor to buy new shirt. He didn't even own a pair of pyjamas and they gave him a pair in St Louis. He came home with them, very proud, because he had never owned a pair in his life.)

But, here stood an Angel of God telling him, *"You'll preach before multitudes, and thousands the world over will come to you for prayer and counsel."* Not only that, but the angel went on

to say that *"You shall pray for kings and rulers and potentates."* You ask, *"Did this happen?"* Let us see if it did.

Brother Branham returned to his little tabernacle the next week, and the old timers will tell you of a sincere young man speaking without a doubt in his mind telling them what the angel had said, and saying. *"There will be thousands come here, they'll crowd you out. You won't find a seat unless you're sincere with God and come early."* People of the city, educated people, looked at him and said. *"Well, Billy Branham, they'll never do that."* But did they? In Brother Branham's files is a letter from the late King George VI of England, thanking him for coming to him, at the king's request for prayer, when the king was healed of a leg ailment. Also in a meeting one day, a very well known congressman, a member of the United States Congress for years, confined to a wheelchair, was sitting back in the aisle of the auditorium while Brother Branham was preaching his message of faith and healing. Like Paul in the Book of Acts, he stopped his sermon, looked down at this man and said, *"Sir, I perceive you have faith to be healed. Rise and walk out of that wheelchair."* And Congressman Upshaw, who had been confined to the wheelchair for over 60 years, stood to his feet and walked down the aisle, praising God. He returned to Washington D.C., stood on the steps of the Capitol Building, and declared William Marrion Branham to be a prophet of God of the twentieth century. Faithfully, as long as he lived, the congressman sent Brother Branham a Stetson hat for Christmas every year. In contrast, there were other people in the world who shrugged him off as an unknown. They just were not listening, or could not hear.

The healing of Congressman Upshaw was carried by *Reader's Digest*. Is it not interesting that two wonderful articles of healings like this in the life and ministry of Brother Branham were carried by the largest circulation magazine in the world, *Reader's Digest*, quoted second only to the Bible? People say, *"I read it in Reader's Digest,"* in the same manner that others might speak of the Bible. It was nothing less than God ordaining it so that the world could know that He had sent a prophet, if they would have only listened.

Brother Branham had an opportunity to visit Pope Pius XII when he was in Rome. He was instructed in what he would have to do to gain an audience with this potentate - how he must approach the Pope - and that he would have to kiss the Pope's ring. This was too much for Brother Branham, he said, *"Forget the interview. I'll do that to no man but my Lord and Savior."* I interject here, and stand the results of the persecution that will come: I wonder if when Billy Graham saw the Pope, did he kiss his ring? When the President of the United States went, did he kiss the ring? You'd never get a prophet to do it. Look at the story of the fiery furnace in the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament; the Hebrews refused to bow down to the image. This was an image, according to the word of a prophet, of a holy man!

The seventh phase of the angel's message concerned the different phases of Brother Branham's ministry. Some people refer to these as the first sign and the second sign. But Brother Branham spoke of them as the "three pulls." (Like the pulls a fisherman makes in attracting the fish, setting the hook, and taking the fish.) The angel told him that, under the anointing, he would be able to take people by the hand and the spirit of disease in that person would cause such a commotion and a resentment when it made contact with his spirit that he would be able to feel this vibration physically in his hand. By telling people what the

disease was, it would inspire the faith of the audience, and they too would believe.

To be shown that this is Scriptural, you must read Exodus the 4th chapter, verses 1-8, which tells of the sign in the hand that God first gave Moses. Moses was to place his hand in his bosom, and it would turn leprous as he took it out. He was to place his hand back in his bosom and it would be made whole again. The sign in the hand was given Brother Branham, as it was Moses, to inspire the faith of the people, to make them realize that here was a man sent from God.

When I first saw Brother Branham, this was the phase of his ministry; the "pull," that was being manifested. When people came before him, unless he could visibly see their ailment, like blindness, being crippled, or paralysis, he would take them by the hand, and, if they had sin in their life, he told them first of their sin. That is, if that sin were not already confessed and under the blood of Jesus Christ. He would warn them, *"Confess your sins before you come."*

One demon he always called out was cigarette smoking - tobacco. He recognized at that time, before the American Medical Association and the Department of Health, Education, Welfare and Drugs knew, that cigarettes cause cancer. He could see the connection by the spirit of the thing, and denounced it back in the 1940's. That was also before women really started smoking. Back then, you didn't see many women smoking. You never saw an advertisement in a magazine of a woman smoking. But after the tobacco industry got all the men they could get, they started making it popular for the women to smoke, and now the cigar industry has even got them on cigars and pipes. They have encouraged the further denigration of the women by making it seem glamorous and something to be desired for them to drink as well as smoke. Now you never see an advertisement showing the wares of the liquor industry unless it has a woman in it.

Just as the women have deteriorated, so has the Church deteriorated. Women type the Church. There is no way a man can prevent it. It will be exactly as that angel told Brother Branham back in 1946. Just as the angel instructed Paul and it came to pass as Paul was told, so will it be with this angel's message, because it came from God to a prophet of this generation.

The second sign, or "pull," was to be his knowing the secrets of the heart. He would be able to just talk to people and he would know their name and other facts about them. (Remember, the Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword and a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.) People began to see this manifested in the late 1950's and early 1960's in Brother Branham's ministry. Subsequent visions and occurrences in the last months of his life revealed to him the purpose of the first sign. It was to bring out and make manifest all the imitators. Sure enough, some came out with it in their left hand, others in their right hand, some with a tingling in their elbow, some with it up their spine, and some would feel it in their right ear. It was all to show that there were Jannes and Jambres types even in this generation, for they did it for filthy lucre's sake, for gain and out of no concern for the people, or the Word of God, or the way of holiness. They would pronounce everybody healed and bring a reproach on the Word of God. Jesus said, *"I can do nothing except I am commanded*

*by my Father."* People came to Brother Branham and said, *"Pray for me; God has given you authority."* He answered, *"Yes, I have the authority, but I do not have the commandment."* He never would do it until God showed him. He did nothing unless the Father showed him. Thank God for one who would stay with the Word.

When the Second Pull began, discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart, here came a new crop of evangelists, and they too could tell you the secrets of your heart and say, *"Thus saith the Lord."* There isn't space to tell it all, but a full understanding, according to the revelation of the Holy Spirit and the light of the Word of God, can be found on Brother Branham's taped message *"Anointed ones at the end time."* It is a genuine anointing of the Holy Ghost, but they are false vessels. You ask where that is in the Scriptures? Matthew 7 says that there will be those who say, *"Lord, Lord, did we not cast out devils in your name and raise the dead and heal the sick?"* But, Jesus answered them, *"Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you."* People came who did signs and wonders, and if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. Why? Because they had the signs, but they did not have the Word of God to bring to the body of the Bride.

Brother Branham had a vision where he was trying to lace a little baby's shoe with a large rope and he couldn't do it because of the rope being larger than the eyelet of the shoe. In the second part of this vision, he was catching fish and he began showing others how to catch fish. This was later interpreted to him to mean that when he came out with the sign in his hand he had tried to explain it to the people. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to him and said, *"You can't teach Pentecostal babies supernatural things."* This had been when he had tried to show other preachers how to do the same thing he was doing.

But there was to be a Third Pull, and God told him when he revealed it to him, *"Keep this secret in your heart!"* Brother Branham said, *"When I leave here, I will have that secret locked in my heart."* The Third Pull, the final phase of his ministry - he said, *"This will be the thing that will take the Bride in the Rapture."*

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