



The Cloud. Flagstaff, Arizona

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Luke 21:25-27,

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

These verses of scripture have been read for hundreds of years. Always in the thoughts of men, the appearance of clouds and the

appearance of Jesus Christ have been connected. Even learned theologians who believe in a return of the Lord to the earth, to take his bride, have formed this connection in their minds. Yet these same theologians may miss his second coming because, though given "eyes to see and ears to hear" they will refuse to use them to detect those things which God has promised in his word, would precede the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24, beginning at the 23rd verse is also a witness of these days before the coming of Christ :

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo here is Christ, or, there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

(Notice that Jesus didn't say "false Jesuses" but false annointed ones," those with a genuine anointing, but speaking that which is not true, false mouthpieces.)

Jesus was warning of deception at the second coming, but he promised that the elected would not be deceived, whose names were written in the lamb's book of life from before the foundation of the world, and they are predestinated to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. And whom he did predestinate, them he also called and justified, and them he also glorified. Jesus says though that there shall arise those about whom people will say "Here is

one anointed! Here is one who has the word!" In Matthew 25:25 he continues:

"Behold I have told you before.

Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold, he is in the desert (some place of isolation); go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."

Among denominations today there are those who would rather believe a denomination born creed, dogma, or doctrine than the word. They fulfil this scripture, for they say, "Here is the word, here is the anointing. We council members, the leaders have met in private, seeking the Lord. Now we come forth and tell you that this is the word." They seek private revelation and force it upon their followers. Remember he is the word. In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Without revelation they interpret the scripture, such as Matthew 24:27:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be."

From this scripture, they expect Jesus Christ to streak across the heavens, shouting his return to take his bride. Those who teach thus forget the scripture where he plainly tells that his return will be "as a thief in the night."

Look at civilisation; it travelled from the east to the west. Look at Christianity, it travelled from the east to the west. Look at the sun; it rises in the east and sets in the west. In chapter 10, it is stated that God began each messenger's message to each church age in the east and the last messenger appeared in the west, bringing the mysteries of God to a completion, as foretold in Revelation 10:7. Therefore if supernatural phenomena were to appear to people living in the last days before the coming of the Lord, these phenomena would occur in the west. For "as the lightning cometh out of the east,...unto the west," so has Jesus Christ revealed himself from the east to the west through these seven messengers. As each brought their message so the revelation proceeded, expanding with each one: Luther who brought justification; Wesley, sanctification, the pentecostals, falling of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of this Laodicean age; and now on to fulfilment with this message to the bride where these mysteries have been spoken by this messenger and the seals have even been opened.

Matthew 24:28,

"For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

Therefore his angels will gather the eagles, those living in this age, the age of eagles. Eagles eat fresh meat, not for the "vomit" that shall fill all denominational "tables" (Isaiah 28:8), but for the fresh meat of the word. That is where the eagles will gather. As this word comes forth, so the people gather who believe it, as God calls them.

Matthew 24:29-30,

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

And then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Another reference to the coming of the son of man, in Daniel 7:13:

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven,..."

Daniel in the old testament even testifies to the coming of the son of man as being connected with the clouds. Likewise Jesus, every time he spoke of his second coming, spoke of clouds

In Arizona, so the chamber of commerce proclaims, eighty five percent of the time, there are no clouds in the sky. But on February the 28, 1963, an extraordinary cloud appeared in Arizona skies which was featured with a picture, in an article written by Dr James McDonald, professor of atmospheric physics at the university of Arizona in science magazine, April 19, 1963. People had been asked to send in any available photographs or other information which could shed light on the origin of this cloud. Why the interest in one cloud ? Simply because of its phenomenal size and height, calculated by trigonometry from eighty odd photographs, as being twenty six miles in altitude, fifty miles long and thirty miles wide. Sightings came from two hundred and eighty miles in one direction and many in other directions from over one hundred miles distance. The magnificent spectacle of this cloud remained illuminated by sunlight twenty eight minutes after sunset. Above the atmosphere, above the flight ceiling of airplanes, beyond where moisture can form and condense, and impossible to have originated from a rocket by the sheer bulk of the moisture it would have to contain, the great cloud remains a scientific enigma.

The editors of Life magazine came across this article in science, and on May 17 (the same month and day according to scripture that Noah entered the ark), 1963, published a picture of the cloud with these words, "A cloud which is too high, and too big to be true, but yet, here is a photograph of it!" I learned of the cloud for the first time from this issue of Life. As I look back, I realize that the article was interesting, yet I attached no special significance to it. A full gospel minister, filled with the Holy Ghost, I believed I was a member of the bride of Christ, but I was not then spiritual enough to realize that Jesus Christ had said his return would be accompanied by clouds. How humbling, in retrospect, to realize that I had not attached supernatural significance to that which could not be explained naturally by science. It was not until 1964 that I heard the truth of the outstanding events that occurred when this cloud appeared over Arizona.

On December 22, 1962, a full two months before the cloud appeared, Brother Branham received a vision while sitting in his den in Jeffersonville, Indiana, one of thousands of visions that he had received in his lifetime. On December 31, 1962, he related this vision to his

congregation in the Branham Tabernacle, in Jeffersonville. His words were heard by approximately six hundred persons present that night and recorded on tape as he brought his sermon entitled "Sirs is this the time ?" He told how in the vision he was on the side of a mountain, removing a cocklebur from a trouser leg, when suddenly he was shocked by a mighty explosion, then visited by seven angels. He admitted to the congregation that he didn't know the meaning of this vision. The vision troubled him exceedingly, and in the weeks that followed he mentioned to others that perhaps God's purpose in his life had been fulfilled and he was to be killed in an explosion. He wondered if these angels were to bear his body away as had been done for Moses.

Shortly after this experience of the vision, he moved with his family to Tuscon, Arizona and took up residence there. He preached a few sermons and began to fit into life in this desert community, but still the vision haunted him. Was his time soon to be up ? When would it be ?

True to his nature as an outdoors man and hunter, he found himself enjoying a favourite sport of the area, the hunting of the wild desert pig known as Javelina. It was during such a hunting trip that the disturbing vision was fulfilled.

The date was March 7, 1963. It was morning and Brother Branham had set out from camp to help his bretheren and fellow - hunters, Brothers Fred Sothmann and Eugene Norman, locate the elusive Javelina. As usual he had already been successful in the hunt for his animal. He climbed to a ridge, having directed the others in the path they should take to encounter a herd of the pigs which he had seen previously and would force them down to them. Resting atop the ridge for a moment, he noticed there was a cocklebur on his trouser leg. Shortly after he had reached to remove it, a blast shook the mountain and as the ground quivered beneath him, he jumped in the air, not knowing what had happened or what to expect next. There in the sky above him, appeared seven tiny dots, like airplanes. Less than a wink later these dots materialized before him - a pyramid of angels with a mighty angel at the top and three smaller angels down each side. Just as Paul said that he was caught up into the third heaven, so Brother Branham related that he was "caught up" into the midst of this angelic constellation. It was at this time he was given the commission: "Return back east from where you came and by revelation and vision, God will open the seven seals that have been sealed in mystery since John the revelator wrote them in the book of Revelation!"

The brothers with him knew of the vision and they had experienced the quaking of the mountain, but, to my knowledge, were not aware of the presence of the angels. Brother Branham charged them at that time to tell no man what they had seen and heard. Leaving Tuscon on March 13, 1963, he returned to Jeffersonville. From March 17th through the 24th, he began the most outstanding and enlightening series of sermons ever known in the church.

Taking one seal each night, he, by the direct revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit each day, preached the mysteries of God which God had promised Daniel would not be revealed until the time of the end. This was that time spoken of in the scriptures, the end time, and God spoke through his prophet as he had always done, but this time the word came in a way of revelation that had never before been spoken to man. The bride was shown that many of the things that they were looking for were already past. It was already time for the bride to

“make herself ready.”

If you examine the photograph of the science - baffling cloud you can see the face of the Lord Jesus Christ in it, looking and facing the east, with hair like wool, as John the Revelator had seen him. He appeared not as a young man as he was when he hung on a cross at thirty-three, but as he who is the judge of the world. It may be difficult for some people to receive, but does it not say in the scriptures in many places that when the son of man is revealed, when he appears, there will be clouds?

Since the distribution of the pictures of the cloud, many people have written articles about it. Professor McDonald wrote another article in Weatherwise magazine, where he projected the theory that the cloud could have been caused by the explosion of a rocket of the armed forces out over the Pacific that day. It so happens, however, that the wind soundings that day were perfect at all strategic locations and a thorough analysis of this information revealed no winds of such velocity to transport the debris and moisture from that rocket to the point of the explosion, nearly five hundred miles out to sea, to a position directly over Flagstaff, Arizona.

The fact remains that they were not then, nor since, able to find a scientific explanation for the cloud. Believers in brother Branham's message, however, desirous of obtaining as much information as possible about the cloud, began to write this professor, asking for information. Finally he became annoyed, demanding to know the reason for the spiritual significance being attached to the cloud. He thrust the question at one of the believers who had walked into his office one day. The man referred him to me; thus I received a phone call shortly from this professor. He inquired of my interest in the cloud. I replied that I simply believed this to be in fulfillment of scripture, and that my being a minister who was looking for the coming of the Lord, I felt that since there was no scientific explanation, it had to be a supernatural occurrence. The scientific impossibility was all too evident, requiring that tons of water be dispersed above the atmosphere. (is it not strange that in Noah's day, the scientists tried to prove that there was no water in the sky and today they try to prove that there was water?)

“Who was William Branham?” he demanded of me. (Someone, it seems had mentioned Brother Branham's name in connection with the cloud.)

I was careful to refrain from telling him all I knew, because of Brother Branham's instructions to the brethren, not to tell about the cloud since it wouldn't be accepted. But as he pressed me, I told him that Brother Branham was a man of God that we believed to be a prophet.

“What about this vision he had?” he questioned.

I told him the vision and related our explanation of the cloud. To this he responded, “You know that I can't accept that explanation!”

“No sir,” I replied. “I didn't expect you to, but you say that there is no explanation of the cloud ...”

"There is absolutely no explanation," he interrupted.

"Sir ," I continued, "You may not have one - but I do - and I believe mine!"

The matter did not drop with this interview, for a newspaper reporter soon entered the scene, seeking a story for his paper. He interviewed Dr. McDonald, then myself, and continued in his search by talking with brothers Norman and Sothmann. He made an agreement with me to let me edit his article prior to publication. It seemed that this was one time that the true facts could be brought out, favourable to Brother Branham and spiritually uplifting. For example, in the original article he had written "Branham healed thousands." I had him change this to read, "Brother Branham prayed for thousands and God healed them."

Incredibly enough, this reporter is now a believer of this message. He believes that this was a visitation of God, that this was a fulfilment of scripture in this day. How this proves the power of the word. Don't fool around with it if you don't want to get caught by it. If you hear it enough and there is any life there, though you may be one of those stubborn seeds that take a long time to come up, yet you will eventually come to life when the light strikes you.

The reporter's article was published in his newspaper, which had a circulation of two hundred and fifty thousand, but, unfortunately, the article had been subject to additional editing after it left his desk. As a result, it contained inaccuracies which Professor McDonald found offensive. He was angered, particularly because he felt that I was in some way responsible. In a subsequent newspaper article, he vented his anger by saying, "The Reverend Green should leave superstition back in the 14th century where it belongs!"

Naturally, I felt obligated to call him on the telephone again. I asked him whether it might not be possible that the editor, not the reporter, had changed the article and misquoted us both.

He would not be pacified, however, and again charged that it was foolishness to believe what we did concerning the cloud. Then God gave me a verse of scripture: Jesus, in Matthew the 16th chapter, said to men of learning, "Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; (you can look and say that it is red and will rain tomorrow) but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

I proclaim to the people of this age that the scriptures promise there is to be a cloud connected with the appearance of the Son of Man on this earth. Now I bring you the startling news that there has been such a cloud in this century - a cloud that cannot be explained by science. If it could be explained through scientific principle then I couldn't believe what I do about it, but there is no explanation. I have been told by a man whom I believe to be a prophet of God for this age, Brother William Branham, that seven angels came to him and revealed the mysteries of the book of Revelation, caught him up into their midst, and leaving him, formed this cloud. I have no reason to doubt this explanation. The cloud was too big, too high, and would have to contain too much moisture to be real; but the fact remains - it was real. It was supernatural and God sent it as a sign to the Bride.

<http://www.believersnewsletter.org>



Email: info.bnl.ministries@gmail.com