

Behold, the Bridegroom

Cometh

..... go ye out to meet Him!

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THE HALO OF LIGHT

STUDY

COMPILED BY THE MIDNIGHT CRY

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May God bless you abundantly,

The Midnight Cry

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16.*

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THE HALO OF LIGHT

THE AMAZING HOUSTON COLISEUM PHOTOGRAPH – January 24, 1950



George J. Lacy
Examiner of Questioned Documents
Holl Building
Houston, Texas

January 29, 1950

R E P O R T A N D O P I N I O N

Re: Questioned Negative

On January 28, 1950 at the request of Reverend Gordon Lindsay, who was representing Reverend William Branham of Jeffersonville, Indiana, I received from the Douglas Studios of 1610 Rusk Avenue in this city, a 4x5 inch exposed and developed photographic film. This film was purported to have been made by the Douglas Studios of Reverend William Branham at the Sam Houston Coliseum in this city, during his visit here the latter part of January, 1950.

R E Q U E S T

Reverend Lindsay requested that I make a scientific examination of the aforesaid negative. He requested that I determine, if possible, whether or not in my opinion the negative had been re-touched or "doctored" in any way, subsequent to the developing of the film, that would cause a streak of light to appear in the position of a halo above the head of Reverend Branham.

E X A M I N A T I O N

A macroscopic and microscopic examination and study was made of the entire surface of both sides of the film, which was Eastman Kodak Safety Film. Both sides of the film were examined under filtered ultra-violet light and infra-red photographs were made of the film.

The microscopic examination failed to reveal retouching of the film at any place whatsoever by any of the processes used in commercial retouching. Also, the microscopic examination failed to reveal any disturbance of the emulsion in or around the light streak in question.

The ultra-violet light examination failed to reveal any foreign matter, or the result of any chemical reaction on either side of the negative, which might have caused the light streak, subsequent to the processing of the negative.

The infra-red photograph also failed to disclose anything that would indicate that any retouching had been done to the film.

The examination also failed to reveal anything that would indicate that the negative in question was a composite negative or a double exposed negative.

There was nothing found which would indicate that the light streak in question had been made during the process of development. Neither was there anything found which would indicate that it was not developed in a regular and recognized procedure. There was nothing found in the comparative densities of the highlights that was not in harmony.

O P I N I O N

Based upon the above described examination and study I am of the definite opinion that the negative submitted for examination, was not retouched nor was it a composite or double exposed negative.

Further, I am of the definite opinion that the light streak appearing above the head in a halo position was caused by light striking the negative.

Respectfully submitted,



GJL/11

BACKGROUND

WILLIAM BRANHAM, A MAN SENT FROM GOD – CHAPTER 18 (Gordon Lindsay)

After the wonderful deliverance from the nervous condition, Brother Branham, as the year 1948 drew to a close, again returned to the field for a series of brief campaigns. The writer was able to be in some of these meetings for a night or so, but commitments made it impossible to rejoin the party immediately. Incidentally, THE VOICE OF HEALING magazine had grown so rapidly that a very considerable amount of our time was required with it--as within a year the publication was being read by nearly 100,000 readers each month. This remarkable growth continued unabated through the second year, with the circulation more than doubling.

In November 1949, Brother Jack Moore and the writer received a communication from Rev. Branham, asking if it were possible for us again to take over the direction of his campaigns. And also, could we with Rev. Baxter make the trip overseas with him to Scandinavia the following Spring? It so happened in the Providence of God that we had just succeeded in fulfilling certain other obligations, and after prayer and consideration we felt, God willing, we should accept this call. From a personal standpoint we have always considered it a great privilege to work with Rev. Branham.

Brother Branham informed us that he had only one meeting scheduled at that time—that was in Houston, Texas. He wanted us to go to Houston and then after that take charge of all further arrangements. As I was engaged in the task of preparing this book for publication and needed to be near him during the time, I consented to go to Houston.

The Houston meeting started a little slowly. However, before it was over some very remarkable things had transpired. It became apparent that our brother's ministry had, in some ways, developed greatly. Not only were the peculiar gifts of the Spirit which had been previously manifested in his ministry functioning with increased power, but a new manifestation was evident. In the working of this new gift, past events in the lives of people who came for healing, were revealed. This was manifest in two ways. If those who came for healing were devout Christians, things were told them of their past life which would greatly encourage their faith, so that in many instances they would be healed without one word of prayer. On the other hand, those who had slipped into the prayer line without seeking right relations with God, or who were living careless backslidden lives, and had committed sins which had not been sincerely confessed to God, these were dealt with by the Spirit of God, right on the platform. Sins would be called out, secrets of their hearts revealed, and in practically every instance individuals so dealt with would immediately make a broken and tearful confession. Usually then, the person would receive healing on the spot.

The Amazing Photograph

About midway in the Houston campaign, a very remarkable thing occurred that proved to be a Divine vindication of Brother Branham's ministry. A certain hostile clergyman who opposed Divine healing, denounced the remarks of Rev. F. F. Bosworth (who spoke during many of the day services) and issued a public challenge through the newspapers, to debate with Rev. Bosworth on the subject of "Divine Healing Through the Atonement." Rev. Bosworth felt led to accept the challenge, and the whole matter was given front-page publicity in the Houston newspapers. On the evening appointed as the meeting got under way, it was quite apparent that the sympathy of the vast audience was almost entirely on the side of the visiting evangelists. Large numbers of the members of the very denomination of the opposing clergyman, stood to their feet as witnesses

that they believed in Divine healing and had in fact been healed. This sentiment became increasingly evident throughout the service.

Now it so happened that the opposing clergyman had secured the services of Mr. James Ayres and Mr. Ted Kipperman, professional photographers who were to take a series of pictures of him while he was speaking. Incidentally, the photographer after taking these shots, secured a picture of Rev. Branham, who spoke briefly just before the service closed.

When Mr. Ayres, one of the photographers, went that same night to the darkroom of his studio, he decided to develop the negatives that had been exposed. To his surprise every one of the negatives turned out to be absolutely blank with the exception of the one which had been taken of Rev. Branham. His surprise turned to amazement when he noticed that on this negative, immediately over the head of Rev. Branham, was apparently a supernatural halo of light. Mr. Ayres called the others of the studio to look at the negative; but when they did so, each was equally puzzled and no one could explain the presence of this halo.

The following morning the photographer sent word to Rev. Branham to inform him of the strange phenomenon that had occurred in connection with the photograph he had taken the night before. Brother Branham then explained to the young man that he was not greatly surprised over the circumstances, as a number of times before, similar things had happened in his ministry. For example, while at Camden, Arkansas, a photographer had snapped a picture of him and when the film was developed it was found that a strange light encircled him, which, the photographer pointed out, could not be accounted for by the lights in the building. (That picture is published in this book.) Many other such things had occurred in his ministry. The photograph taken at Houston was without a doubt the most outstanding and spectacular of these supernatural manifestations, because of the unique circumstances under which the photograph had been taken.

Houston Newspapers Report The Meeting

The same morning that the photographer brought the news of the strange phenomenon which appeared on the photograph, the Houston newspapers carried full reports of the service on their front pages. (Of course, at this time the newspapers had heard nothing yet about the photograph.) It is interesting to note that Mr. Ayres, one of the photographers who had been secured by the opposing clergyman, himself had made skeptical remarks--which remarks were included in the reports by the newspapers. That the picture should come from this photographer makes the whole matter the more astonishing, and confirms its absolute authenticity, if indeed any more evidence were needed.

Below we include some greatly condensed reports of the meeting as they appeared that morning in the Houston newspapers:

THE NEWSPAPERS

FROM THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE, JAN. 25

They lay on cots under the glare of the great lights of Sam Houston Coliseum Tuesday night--the lame, the sick, the infirm, the ones whose hopes for physical health had almost gone. They lay there quietly, some of them uncomprehendingly, as the theological argument swirled about and above them.

For it was they who--Rev. F. F. Bosworth, an out-of-town evangelist, said--could be cured of their infirmities by the divine healing power passed on through Rev. William Branham, Rev. Mr. Bosworth's partner.

But Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of the Houston Tabernacle Baptist Church, contended that any such "miraculous healing" had ceased with the apostles. And he challenged Rev. Mr. Bosworth to prove otherwise.

Rev. Mr. Bosworth, amid cheers and shouts of "amen" from the audience of 8000, quoted numerous passages from various sources, which, he said, proved that Christ died not only for the sins of man, but for physical sickness also. Over and over again he quoted a Bible passage:

"Christ took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses." Each time he repeated it the crowds sent up a great shout, and faint smiles broke out on the faces of some of those lying on the cots.

The audience could hear Rev. Mr. Best's rapid-fire sermon, and they didn't like everything they heard. They didn't like it when he said "I deny that any man living today has the power and the gift to heal as the apostles did."

FROM THE HOUSTON PRESS, JAN. 25, 1950

Polite Hearing

The Rev. Raymond T. Richey appealed to the audience to give each speaker a polite hearing.

"When you agree with the speaker, say 'amen' and when you disagree, say 'no'," he asked.

For nearly four hours, the Coliseum rocked with "amen's" and "nos."

When the Rev. Best made a point, the Rev. Bosworth would rush to the microphone on the stage from which the speakers held forth and dramatically ask those in the audience who had been cured through faith to stand.

Hundreds Rise

Each time hundreds would rise.

"How many of you are Baptists?" the Rev. Bosworth shouted.

At least 100 stood up.

"No man has the power to heal!" declared the Rev. Best.

She's A Baptist

To Mrs. W. E. Wilbanks of 712 Teetshorn, the Rev. Best misrepresented the slight, black haired evangelist who has been preaching to crowds of 5000 nightly.

"I'm a Baptist myself," said Mrs. Wilbanks. "Brother Branham does not claim the power of Divine healing. It is simply that faith and the spirit of God working through him heal people. Rev. Best is misrepresenting Baptist sentiment in attacking Rev. Branham.

Ordinarily, the way the miracle cures are developed, persons in the audience fill out cards which bear a number and their name. The Rev. Branham picks a number and prays for the cure of that person. Occasionally, he selects a person at random.

Those attending are informed that it is possible they won't be reached during the evening for an individual prayer--but they come, night after night, hoping that their turn will arrive.

Woman Reborn

Mrs. Mary Georgia Hardy, 708 Columbia, said she was "reborn three years ago," but that she first experienced the wonders of faith healing 18 years ago.

"After the birth of my second child, I was a nervous wreck, but faith healing made me well and I've had two children since," said Mrs. Hardy, who attends the Assembly of God Church at 18th and Ashland in the Heights.

Sitting next to her, Mrs. Gray Walker of 2501 Blodgett, pointed to her four-year-old grandchild, Diane Cox.

She's Well Now

"Diane was born with a clubfoot. A doctor wanted to put the foot in a cast but our Assembly of God pastor, the Rev. J. C. Miner, suggested we try prayer. We did. Gradually--over a period of weeks--the foot straightened out. Diane is well now."

One week ago, during a general prayer by Rev. Branham, Mrs. W. E. Miller, who lives on the Genoa-Alameda road, was suddenly cured of chronic sinus trouble, she said. "I was simply praying for others when it happened."

Sorcery

When the Rev. Best shouted there were those "who used sorcery to bewitch people, so that people are sincerely misled and say it's the power of God," James Ayres, a commercial photographer of 1610 Rusk, agreed.

"Branham puts on a show," said Mr. Ayres. "Somehow he never gets around to the cripples and the persons who have arthritis. He simply hypnotizes his audience."

(Note: Mr. Ayres mentioned above in the Houston Press was the photographer who hours later was to discover the supernatural light above Rev. Branham's head on the photograph.)

After conferring with Rev. Branham, the writer arranged for the negative to be turned over to Mr. George Lacy, considered the greatest authority on questioned documents in that area. Mr. Lacy then submitted the negative to exhaustive scientific tests. Rev. Branham was certain that the negative was genuine but considered it wise to have absolute scientific proof of its genuineness.

After a most thorough examination, Mr. Lacy gave a certified statement that every test showed that the negative was absolutely genuine, and had not been "doctored" or retouched or been given a double exposure of any kind.

Rev. Branham then gave the studios permission to reproduce copies of the photograph; he insisted, however, that he would take nothing personally from the returns of its sale, though he would permit a certain percentage to be given for overseas missionary enterprises in which he was interested.

Another remarkable development in connection with the phenomenon that appeared on the photograph was the fact that independent testimonies came in from various people, collaborating the fact that the supernatural light appeared over Brother Branham's head. Some of these testimonies came from those who at the time had not yet learned about the photograph. A typical one is from Mrs. Grace Coursey, Rt. 1, Box 108, Cleveland, Texas, who tells how a Catholic who witnessed the light, was converted by it:

Amazing Confirmation By Catholic Convert Of The Supernatural Light

"I was sweeping the floor the other morning when a car came into the driveway at our home on a farm 56 miles north of Houston. Being somewhat embarrassed at the strewn state of my house, I said, by way of explaining to the strangers, that I worked in Cleveland as a sales-lady six days of the week, and had been attending the Branham revival many nights, so had not time to straighten my house. The man, a stranger to me, had come in answer to an advertisement of our farm for sale. When I mentioned the Branham revival, his countenance lighted up and he said,

'We have been there, too.' This is what his wife told us:

Mr. Becker (the stranger) had been suffering with a terrible stomach condition, violent cramping, etc. He took medicine every night. His wife's mother read in the Houston paper about Branham and his God-given gifts of healing, and she asked Mrs. Becker to ask her husband to go and be prayed for. Mrs. Becker doubted that he would go since he was a Catholic. She told him about it and he said he would go.

Mrs. Becker was greatly disappointed when they arrived at the Houston Coliseum and found the Baptist preacher (she is a member of the Baptist church) debating with Brother Bosworth. She feared that her husband would not believe after seeing this. Instead of being driven away from belief, Mr. Becker stated to us, 'I saw a light around Rev. Branham's head when he was standing there on the stage after the debate; it was not a flash bulb, it was a halo about his head.' When Brother Branham gave the altar call, Mr. Becker, who had always professed very staunchly that he was saved, went up to accept Christ. His wife, thinking he had misunderstood, asked him if he understood the proposition that had been made. He replied, 'Certainly I do.'

"He automatically quit the habit of using God's Name in vain. Mr. Becker went to the two o'clock service next day and received a prayer card. His number was not called that night but he was instantly healed in the mass prayer call.

The Halo of Light

"I did not know when I came here tonight to be in the service and tell this, that a photographer had taken a picture of Brother Branham that same night that Mr. Becker, the Catholic man, had seen the light around his head and believed he was sent of God with a gift of healing."

Jan. 30, 1950
Mrs. Grace Coursey.
Rt. 1 Box 108,
Cleveland, Texas.

GORDON LINDSAY EXPLAINS

Gordon Lindsay (Editor Voice of Healing Magazine) explains the picture

“While the prayer line is forming, I want to show you this picture that we happened to get a hold of just now, one that Brother Branham was talking about, which shows the supernatural Light over his head. As soon as that picture was taken, I made arrangements to have the negative taken to the Examiner of Questioned Documents, Mr. George Lacy, of Houston, Texas. And I asked him; I said, “You have all means of science at your command, can you tell me if there’s any fake about that particular negative? Can you tell if there’s a superimposure? Can you tell if there’s been a double exposure? Can you tell if the film has been “doctored with,” in any way?”

He says, “Absolutely, I can.” So he took it—cost us a considerable sum because he was a scientist engaged in that work—and examined it many hours in his laboratory. And then, with his own name signed underneath it, he declared that the negative was absolutely, absolutely, positively genuine.

May I just add this word: The picture was taken by a hostile photographer, one that had spoken against the meeting. Fact he... The statement even got in the newspaper, and he was as surprised as anyone.

They were Jews, Orthodox Jews, and so, I regard this merely as a verification and confirmation. And Brother Branham regards it—not that he is supernatural in any way—but a verification of his ministry and message of bringing Divine healing to the people of the world. Friends, I believe the Bible is true. And so tonight, as Brother Branham ministers, may we all be in the Spirit of God, and realize that the supernatural is here tonight to deliver people, not only heal them, but to heal their souls, bring men and women to Jesus Christ.”

Minneapolis. MN July 14, 1950

The next meetings

From Houston the Branham party went to Beaumont, a city some eighty miles west. After the first night the city auditorium overflowed with people, and on the second night, two policemen and seven firemen were required to enforce the city laws governing safety regulations in the building. Raymond T. Richey chartered a train of eleven coaches which carried 700 people from Houston to Beaumont to attend the Monday night service. Only part of them could find room in the reserved section. Auditorium officials relented and permitted several hundred who could not get into the building to stand on the back of the platform during the meeting.

One of the interesting features of the campaign was the luncheon which nearly one hundred ministers and their wives attended. Brother Branham spoke to them briefly from his heart. He said that God had commissioned him to give a special message to all believers, that they should forget their differences, and unite themselves in oneness of mind and heart in preparation for the soon Coming of Christ. All that were present gave solemn heed to what he said, as it was evident that these words were the words of a prophet.

During the Beaumont campaign some 2000 came forward to confess Christ. About 3000 had responded to the altar calls in Houston; so that during those thirty days, nearly 5000 had confessed Christ as their Savior.

Gordon Lindsay
Editor of the Voice Of Healing
In Collaboration with William Branham

THE AMAZING HALO PHOTOGRAPH

ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 24, 1950,

one of the most amazing photographs in the history of all-time was taken in Houston, Texas. It occurred in the Branham meetings then being held in that city. From night to night God's power was revealed, and in the case of practically every person dealt with, Brother Branham was able to discern not only the affliction but anything that was interfering spiritually with the person seeking healing. Unconfessed sin was promptly called out. This action of the Spirit revealed to the audience how important it was for people seeking healing to surrender their lives completely to God.



Scenes from the meeting in Houston where the amazing photograph at left was taken. The lower photograph was the audience that attended in the Sam Houston Auditorium.

During the campaign a hostile clergyman by the name of W. E. B... raised a great hue and cry against the meetings, claiming that the days of miracles were passed. He said that those who prayed for the sick were fakers and challenged the evangelist to a debate, on the subject of Divine healing. Brother Branham refused the offer to debate, but the late F. F. Bosworth, who was with the party, accepted the challenge. So it was that on the night of January 24, some 8,000 people were in the Sam Houston auditorium to witness the proceedings. There never was any doubt that night as to whom the sympathies of the vast crowd were for. Dr. B... had nothing to offer the people. He told the audience that God no longer was interested in healing the sick.

Nevertheless, Dr. B,... thought to capitalize on the meeting by having his picture taken as one of the speakers. Never before had he had an opportunity to speak before so large an audience. He hired a Mr. Ayres, a professional photographer, who worked with the Ted Kipperman Studios to take pictures of him.

Although Brother Branham refused to take part in the debate, he was however, prevailed upon, at the close of the service, to say a few words to the audience. Mr. Ayres although told not to take any pictures of Rev. Branham, nevertheless, slipped forward to get the shot. We could have stopped him, but decided to let him go ahead.

Back at the studios that night, Mr. Ayres tried to develop the photographs taken of Dr. B,... For some mysterious reason the negatives all turned out blank! Rather surprised at this result since his camera was in perfect working condition, Mr. Ayres now tried to develop the shot taken of Rev. Branham, 'though naturally he expected it to be blank also. Imagine his 'surprise when he found that the film was not only good, but there appeared on the negative over the head of Brother Branham, a flame of fire in the form of a halo!

In the morning the astonished photographer came down to our hotel where we were staying to report on the strange result of the negative that had been taken on the night before. There could not be any doubt that the photograph was genuine, but to anticipate skepticism we had the negative taken to Mr. George Lacy, a professional examiner of questioned documents, who made a scientific examination of the film.

After giving it a careful analysis over a period of two days, Mr. Lacy gave a signed statement that in his opinion the photo graph was absolutely genuine.

THE EXPERT'S REPORT OF THE NEGATIVE

A part of Mr. Lacy's written report was as follows: "Rev. Lindsay requested that I make a scientific examination of the aforesaid negative. He requested that I determine, if possible, whether or not in my opinion the negative had been retouched or 'doctored' in any way, subsequent to the developing of the film, that would cause a streak of light to appear in the position of a halo above the head of Rev. Branham." (Then followed his scientific analysis and concluding he said, ". . . , Based upon the above described examination and study I am of the definite opinion that the negative submitted for examination was not retouched, nor was it a composite or double exposed negative Further I am of the definite opinion that the light streak appearing above the head in a halo position was caused by *the* light striking the negative."

The appearance of this remarkable phenomenon on the negative was, of course, a startling confirmation of the authenticity of Brother Branham's ministry. The fact that the shots taken of Dr. B...., turned out blank could only be interpreted that God was rebuking and discrediting this presumptuous minister.

The incident had a powerful effect upon everybody including the photographers. Mr. Kipperman, convinced that the photograph indicated God's hand upon Rev. Branham, travelled with the party for a season. We believe that it was God's call to Mr. and Mrs. Ayres and her ten year old son Douglas Ashley. However, the family were Jews, and as we all know it is a very difficult thing for a Jew to suddenly accept Christ.

Alas, if they had only known what they know now they would surely have given themselves to God at that time.

THE DEBATE BETWEEN REVEREND BEST AND FF. BOSWORTH

(Taken from William Branham's sermon 'Testimony', November 29, 1953 p.m., West Palm Beach, Florida, edited)

I was at Houston, Texas, having a meeting. We were having somewhat about eight thousand in a coliseum, and Mr. Bosworth and I was together, my brother here. We're having a lovely meeting. Raymond Richey and many of the churches around was sponsoring the meeting, and there came a man... (I have plenty of critics. We know that. We're bound too. If Jesus had them, well, I've got to have them too and so have you. We all have them.)

But there was a man just out of the seminary, and he was a very smart, brilliant man. He was a doctor, had just got his degree, and he was a Baptist minister. His name was Doctor Best, and he was a very brilliant young man. He had a nice tabernacle there and a very fine following. And some of his people was coming over to the meeting. And so he took the side to say that there was no such a thing as divine healing.

Well, Mr. Bosworth in fixing the itinerary and the advertisement, and Mr. Richey and many of the other ministers had hung a sign out in the street said, "Miracles every night."

Well, Mr. Best said, "Well, that was ridiculous, and there was no such a thing as divine healing." And he put a challenge in the paper. Instead of coming to us, he put a challenge in the paper and said, "William Branham is a religious impostor... he should be run out of the city, and I should be the man to do it."

So I didn't think it sound very Christian in my brother, but that was all right. And Mr. Bosworth came and said, "Brother Branham, look at this." And he'd challenged me to debate the subject of divine healing with him openly before the people.

Well, I'm not a debater. I don't believe in fussing. I preach the Gospel. If the people believe it, why, all right. If they don't, that's all I can do about it. Now, you never make anything by fussing and debating. Don't never do it, 'cause you just make enemies. That's all. I've seen too much of it.

So Mr. Bosworth, he came and he said, "Brother Branham, look at this."

I said, "Brother Bosworth, just let it alone. We got thousands of people to be prayed for, and why would we fool with one person who doesn't believe, when there's thousands waiting to be prayed for who does believe? Why fool with it?"

Well, the next day the minister put in the paper, a great headline in Houston Chronicle, and he said, "It goes to show what they're made out of. They're ashamed and afraid when the real Gospel is laid out before them, to debate the subject. It shows what they're made out of."

Well, here come Brother Bosworth to my room again. He said, "Looky here, Brother Branham. Are you going to take that?"

And I said, "Why, Brother Bosworth, it won't do any good. The Holy Spirit is with me. He promised me He would do, and I have the anointing to pray for sick people, and I just won't fool with it."

He said, "Let me do it. It's a shame. The public will think that we're just a bunch of people that just flying about. There's no Scripture to it or nothing. We owe it to the public."

I said, "I only owe the public what God told me to do."

And he said, "Well, Brother Branham, it's not right. I can produce hundreds of Scriptures and that man hasn't got one Scripture in the Bible to stand on, let me prove it."

Well, I thought of Caleb, you know, when that old fellow that had the sword and said, "Joshua put this in my hand when I was forty years old; I'm eighty today; I'm just as good a man today as I was when Joshua give me the sword." Well, I thought, "That was pretty gallant of him being in his seventies and Mr. Best in his thirties, just fresh out of the seminary."

I looked at him and I said, "Brother Bosworth, I don't want you to go down there and fuss with that man."

"Brother Branham, I wouldn't fuss with nobody. I wouldn't do it, but I know one thing: I know what the Word of God teaches. Now, I think you owe it to say something about it."

I said, "All right. You go do it then, but you promise me you won't fuss."

He said, "I promise."

Well, like a little child with Christmas anticipations, down the steps he went. The reporters were waiting. They wouldn't let them come to the room up there, and so I said I wouldn't fuss with him.

So Brother Bosworth, he went down, and then, of course, you know how the newspaper can write. Great big headlines "Ecclesiastical Fur Will Fly," and they really decorated it up real good. But here's what made me know that someday the great Church of God is coming together. You're going to forget your differences. When communism goes to forcing you right hard, don't worry, you'll come together. God has a way of doing things. So when the great press come on, there's a strange...

We couldn't fit in that coliseum anymore. We couldn't stay in that place we were at. We had to go over and rent the big Sam Houston Coliseum, seats around thirty thousand. And that day they come in by special plane, special trains until that place packed completely full of people. They didn't care whether they was Methodists, Baptists, whether they were Pentecostal Oneness, Twoness, Threeness, or Church of God, or whether they was riding a one hump camel, two hump camel, or whatever it was. There was one thing in common, and that was divine healing was at stake, and every man believed in it and here he come to take the part of it. That's what it takes. Wait till Christianity comes to that spot, and you'll find all the Methodists, and Baptists, and all of them looking just alike then, everybody coming right together, pressing into the Kingdom of God. That settled it with me that day, when I looked back there and there was thousands of all different descriptions of people setting there from all kinds of churches, Catholic and all, everybody placed together.

I told Brother Bosworth, "I wouldn't go down that night. No, I don't want to hear it." And my brother was with me, and my wife, and little girl.

He said, "Well, you just stay up in your hotel." I was staying at that time at the Rice Hotel. When it got time to go, I just couldn't hardly stay away. So I got in the cab, and a couple of police come

and so they taken me down. And I pulled my overcoat up like this, and we went way up in balcony thirty. And I got a seat up there just before all the crowds got packed in.

And I was setting there with my coat up, my wife and boy setting there. Well, when he come up for the discussion, the moderators and so forth come to the platform. Mr. Cy Ramsar, who used to be Paul Rader's song leader, was leading songs for us. Very much of a diplomat on the platform, he was leading the singing, and just before he turned the service over to the moderator, he said, "I was reading in the paper the other day where that someone said that William Branham ought to be run out of the city a religious impostor. If you people of Houston would put more time running bootleggers out of the city than you would do a religious man like that, your city would be better off." And a great roar went up all through the place.

I thought, "Well..." And I looked at Brother Bosworth... I admired him. And he walked out, and Mr. Best when he come over, he went and hired photographers to come take his picture. And he wanted to take his picture. He said, "I'm going to skin that old man, and take the hide off of him, and tack it on my study door for a memorial to divine healing." Quite a statement for a child of God to say, you know. And so he wanted to take the picture, so they hired the Douglas Studios in Houston, Texas, to come, take his picture.

And so Mr. Bosworth who'd never been in a debate before...thought they would just stand and give Scriptures and discuss them. So Mr. Bosworth had a great load of Scriptures wrote out. And Mr. Best said, "No, you go up and say what you're going to say in thirty minutes. Then I'll say what I've got to say in thirty minutes." So well, they agreed on that. I was setting listening wondering what was going to take place.

Well, when I seen my Brother Bosworth walk out there coolly, knowed just where he was at, with no doubt in his mind, he said, "Dr. Best, we're sorry that we have to have discussions like this, but you had a statement in the paper that Brother Branham was a religious impostor and there was no such a thing as divine healing.

"Now, our subject tonight to discuss is not Brother Branham; it's whether divine healing is in the Bible or not. That's what the debate is for. That's what we signed up for: Whether divine healing was taught in the Scriptures. The gifts of God will prove themselves, but this is what we're teaching whether divine healing is in the Bible or not. I have (I forget how many Scriptures there, a hundred or two)... This is Christ's present attitude towards the sick is just the same today as it ever was. If you'll take one of those Scriptures, and by the Scripture disprove it, then we won't have any discussion. I've lost the debate, and I'll set down, if you can take the Scriptures and prove that Christ's present attitude isn't just exactly the same towards the sick now as it ever was."

And he offered him a paper.

Mr. Best said, "I'll take care of that when I get up there. You go ahead with what you're going to say. I'll take care of that."

And Mr. Bosworth said, "Then Mr. Best, I'll ask you one question, and if you'll answer me 'yes' or 'no,' I'll set down. Was the redemptive Names of Jehovah applied to Jesus, 'yes' or 'no'?" I never thought of that myself. That settled it. That's all.

He said, "I'll answer that."

He said, "I'm asking you to answer me now. We don't have to discuss it, if you say 'yes' or 'no.'" Of course he couldn't. Certainly not. If the redemptive Names of Jehovah was not applied to Jesus, He was not the Christ or the Son of God; He wasn't Jehovah-jireh, the Lord's provided Sacrifice; and if He was the Lord's provided sacrifice, Jehovah-jireh, He was also Jehovah-rapha, the healer, the same yesterday, today, and forever. That settled it.

Mr. Best got up, and turned around, and kind of shook his fist two or three times, and set down. And so Mr. Bosworth stood there and just laid off Scripture. I never heard it like that in my life, just as coolly, and placed everything to a place where Mr. Best didn't even have one place at all to go to in the Scripture. He just was just tied so perfectly, till there was no angle to get out of it. He was just tied down.

Mr. Best got up when his time come, and Mr. Bosworth was a very, very polite way, said, "Mr. Best, all right my brother, the platform's yours now." The moderator give him the platform. Mr. Best got up there and laughed two or three times and preached a very good Campbellite sermon. I'm a Baptist; I know what Baptist doctrine is. So he preached a Campbellite sermon on the resurrection. He didn't even believe the miracles that Jesus Christ did. Lazarus died again. He preached it all in the resurrection when this mortal puts on immortality. Of course, any Christian believes that there would be a resurrection, but if there is no attributes of the resurrection, if there is no earnest of the resurrection, then there is no resurrection. If there is no divine healing, then there is no resurrection. Now, you couldn't disprove that if you could by the Scripture. I'm arguing the points of Christ. See? Because we have the earnest of our salvation, which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Is that right? That's the down payment, the earnest which holds it secure in heaven for us. And then if there is no divine healing to make a cancer-ridden body come normal and well again, there is no resurrection of the dead; we have no earnest of it at all; there's no plan made for it. So that settled it.

Mr. Best commence to going on, and the audience actually laughed at him. And so he said, "Let me see that divine healer come forth and perform." He got real angry, and he said, "Let me see that divine healer come forth and perform."

Mr. Bosworth said, "The very idea, Mr. Best, you calling Brother Branham a divine healer. Why, never in all of his life did he ever claim to be a divine healer, very much contrary. He only preaches divine healing through the atonement, just exactly like what I proved to you. And you've not even mentioned one Scripture that I said or come to any of it. You never done nothing but preached on the resurrection of the dead, and we all believe that." So there it was. It was up the audience to make their choice.

He said, "Let me see that divine healer."

He said, "Brother Branham wasn't to be brought in this. The subject is whether divine healing is taught in the Bible and you can't say one word against it. 'Cause if you can, say it now." So there wasn't nothing to be said, 'cause there wasn't no way he could go, 'cause it was all covered over with the atonement and everything. So there it was. There wasn't nothing to be said.

He said, "Let me see that divine healer."

And Mr. Bosworth said to him said, "Brother Best, do you believe that God saves the soul?"

He said, "Yes."

“You teach that through the atonement?”

Said, “Yes.”

“Would you want to be called a divine Savior? If Brother Branham, by preaching divine healing, is a divine healer, then if you preach salvation, you’re a divine Savior.”

Oh, he got really on the air then, and so he begin to blow up and down and said, “There’s nothing in the world... decent thinking people don’t believe in such nonsense. Baptists don’t believe in no such a thing.”

“Whoa, beg your pardon,” Brother Bosworth said. “Brother Branham was rocked in a Baptist cradle.”

“Oh, he’s a backslidden type. Real true honest Baptists don’t believe in no such.” Brother Bosworth said, “Would you excuse me just a moment? How many setting in this vast audience that belongs to these fine Baptist churches with all these Baptist ministers setting along here... how many of you in this audience could prove by a doctor’ statement that you’ve been healed by divine healing, the power of God, in Brother Branham’s meetings these last few weeks.”

And three hundred stood up. “What about those?”

Mr. Best hit the pulpit with his fist and said, “People can say anything, but that don’t make it right.”

“Here the Word teaches it, and there’s the testimony of it. Now, what about it?”

And he said, “Let me see that divine healer.”

Then Mr. Richey got up... asked the moderator if he could speak just a moment. “I know every one of these Baptist ministers. Is this the attitude of the Southern Baptist Convention towards divine healing? Is this the attitude that the Southern Baptist Convention takes toward divine healing?”

Nobody would answer. He said, “I’m asking you, brethren. Did you all send this man here, or did he come on his own?”

They said, “He come on his own.”

“I thought so. Baptists believe in divine healing. Certainly they do. He come on his own.” So that settled it with the Baptist, Southern Baptist church. It was Mr. Best his own self.

So then he kept saying, “If I see that miracle worker. Let me see him come down here... Let me see him hypnotize one of these people, and let me see him a year from now and see if he is still hypnotized,” and all like that, you know, just going on. So he said, “Come up here. I want you to take my picture.” And he stood there, then he put his finger under that saintly old man’s face, said, “Now take it,” with his finger shaking. They took the picture, and he drewed his fist and shook it under his nose, said, “Now, take it.” And they took his picture like that. So they took six, 9x10 glossies of him like that.

They went back. There set the “Look,” “Life,” “Time,” “Collier,” and all those, the “Chronicle,” and all those magazines and papers setting there.

Then Brother Bosworth said, "Well, now the meeting as far as I'm concerned is finished. Mr. Best cannot answer one question against divine healing, besides he has miserably quit. How many thinks so? Say, 'Amen.'" And just one great scream went over the building.

Then he got real angry, and walked around, and slapped the minister, and just about half way across that platform. And then they had to separate him. So then he walked back. Said, "Bring me that divine healer."

Brother Bosworth said, "Now, Brother Branham is setting in the meeting. I know he's here..." ('cause he'd seen me up there) "Now if he wants to come and dismiss the audience, all right, but under such a fuss as this, of course, no, he couldn't pray for the sick. If you want to see healing come, come over tomorrow night. They'll be going along all along... I know he's in the meeting." I was setting still. My brother was setting there, he said, "Now, you set still. You said you would."

I told him, "I'm setting still."

And while I was setting there like that, I heard Something going, "Whoo." I knew He was near. I raised up. My brother said, "Set down."

My wife said, "No..."

I looked and there It was. Just then, everybody was looking around. No one knew I was up there; and there just thousands of friends there. And I looked back, people looked, like one big scream. Poor, dear, loving people, they'd seen so many things done that week... 'Till several ushers, hundreds of them, held their arms together and made a line, the people trying to touch your clothes to be healed. Brother, this is not something easy. I'm human. I've got children at home, and mother's trying to push their little kids through those ushers arms to touch your clothes when you're passing by. God will reward faith as that. He will. Sure.

And I walked down to the platform. I said, "Brother Best."

He said, "As a man I admire you. In your doctrine you're wrong."

I said, "That's mutually felt. I admire you, Brother Best, and you got a right for your ideas. That's why they're fighting over here in Korea, the boys is, to keep this America: every man to his own opinion.

"I don't want any of this people, any of Brother Best's people or any of the Baptist people, anyone to feel bad towards Brother Best. Don't do that. He's our brother, and he just doesn't see it like that. He just believes it his way, and he's got a right to believe it his way. Remember, his mother loves him just the same as my mother loves me, and your mother loves you. He's somebody's boy, and he's got a right to his belief. So don't feel hard at it. Mr. Bosworth just proved by the Word that the doctrine is sound and in the Bible, and Mr. Best could not prove it."

So Mr. Best just turned around and started off the platform. Then he turned back and looked and set down.

I said, "Now, I have never said that I was a divine healer. Never. My books are published in about seventeen different languages, and I guess I'm in contact with several million people, but never

have I said a divine healer. I don't heal people. The only thing I do is preach divine healing by the cross and by the Bible.

"Now, when I was a little boy, my mother said a Light hung over me when I was a baby. My people were Catholic before me and my mother and father went to no church. We were Irish on both sides, immigrated from Ireland. We were in there. They didn't go to church. I was born in a little mountain cabin and when I was just a little bitty boy, It begin to deal with me. Down through life It always spoke, and many, many times and thousands of people have seen It. It comes in like a Light. It tells me things.

"And when He met me, He told me that it was the Spirit of Lord Jesus Christ that done just exactly the same things that Brother Bosworth and them has said tonight. Jesus didn't claim to do any healing. He said, 'What the Father shows Me I don't do nothing. I can heal nothing, but I do

just what the Father shows Me by vision; that's what I do.' And you know that's the truth, isn't it? Every Bible reader, scholar knows that's the truth.

"He walked through the crowd. He perceived their thoughts. He knowed what they was thinking about. He knowed what was wrong with them. He knowed the woman at the well, and He talked to her a little bit, where her trouble was. He knowed Nathanael's trouble, and He knowed where a fish had a coin in its mouth. Just as God would show Him, He would do. He didn't claim to be a healer.

In the resurrection of Him, He's the same yesterday, today, or forever.

"Now, if I testify of the truth, God will testify of me. If I do not testify of the truth, God will never have nothing to do with a lie. God will always testify truth though.

"I'm not out here just to be seen. I'm out here, not by choice, by a long ways; I wanted to be a... Well, I was a game warden in the state of Indiana, and I loved my job. I was borned for the wilderness and wilds. I certainly... It wasn't my choice to preach the Gospel, but woe unto me if I preach it not. It was God's choice. I run from it and tried to get away from it and everything. It was Him Who brought it. If I tell the truth, God will testify the truth."

And I no more than said it, Something went, "Whew!" Here He come, sailing right down where I was. And this photographer run out and took a picture, when he seen me turn white in the face.

And he took a picture. I said, "God has spoken."

And that's all Catholic people and all setting there saw It, looked at It. Many of them begin to scream and fainting. Come right down, a Pillar of Fire, moved right down to where I was at. He shot the picture. One of the men of the studio was a Jew; his name was Ted Kipperman. The other one's name was Mr. Ayres; he's a Roman Catholic. And oh, he just wrote a awful thing in the paper about me the day before that. He said I was a hypnotizer and I don't know what all.

And so on the road home that night, taken the negatives, going in to have them developed for Mr. Best, he said, "I might've been wrong. What do you think about that, Ted?"

Ted said, "Well, I'm Jew. I don't know nothing about it."

He said, "Well, I'm Catholic; we're taught that those things can happen, but it can only happen in a Catholic church."

Now, you're wrong there. It can happen wherever God wants it to happen, whether it's in Catholic church or anywhere He wants it to happen. He's God. He does the choice. He keeps the book.

And so he went in, and he put the pictures in the darkroom to go through the acids to be developed, and after a bit, why, Mr. Kipperman said, "I'm going up and lie down a little while." And so he went upstairs to lie down. And while he was up there, Mr. Ayres smoked a cigarette or two, and went in the darkroom and said, "I'll see. We had to get the picture ready 'cause Dr. Best, the minister, wanted his pictures the next day so he could show it to the people..."

When Mr. Ayres went in... (which is an arch enemy of mine and Brother Bosworth too. He didn't believe it. He wrote a piece in the paper and said I wasn't nothing but a hypnotizer. A goiter had left a woman's throat. He said, "He hypnotized that off of her throat." Oh, my. That shows mental weakness.)

So then, when he pulled the first picture out of Mr. Best with Mr. Bosworth, it was negative. God wouldn't permit that taken against that saintly old man. He pulled out the next one: negative. He pulled out all six of them, and every one of them was blank. And when he pulled out the other one, there was the Angel of God on the picture. He had a heart attack.

They sent for me at the Rice Hotel. Of course, there's two men standing at the door in big meetings where they have thousands and thousands of people. There's someone stands at the door. They wouldn't let them in.

Then that night at eleven o'clock, that was sent to Washington, D.C. to be copyrighted. On the following day, it was flown back again. And they called in George J. Lacy. He's the head of the FBI in fingerprint and documents, the best there is in the world, the best in the United States. So being American, we say he was the best in the world to us. And so he's the head of the FBI. And they brought him in, and he took it to the Shell Building under examination of ultra-ray lights and so forth, everything he tried. He went out and he measured the distance, and took the camera to see if it was a double exposure, and he done everything that he could do to find out. And on about the fourth day he said they was going to meet in the Shell Building and announce what it was.

So that day he said, "whose name's Branham?"

I said, "Mine." Bunch setting there, a lot of the newspapers and things wanted to see what his report was.

He said, "Stand up." I stood up. He said, "You're going to pass out of this life someday like all mortals, Reverend Branham."

I said, "I'm aware of that, but thank God, Jesus Christ has saved me from sin."

He said, "I've been one of your critics." And so the man when he brought up there, he said, "Reverend Branham, it's always been said that that was psychology. I've heard of your meetings and said that it was psychology, wasn't nothing to it; it was just imagination. When that light would come in, everybody would say, 'There it is. There it is.' And people would say, 'Well that's... everybody just imagined it.'"

(It was took once before by a newspaper, but it wasn't real. They wouldn't let it go, because it wasn't by the American Photographer Association. It wasn't a member of it, so they wouldn't pass it, but this was strictly the American Photographer Association.)

And he said, "Reverend Branham, I have said it was psychology, but the mechanical eye of this camera will not take psychology. The Light struck the lens." Everybody begin crying.

So they called me forward to present the picture to me, and I said, "Well, it's not mine. It belongs to them."

He said, "Do you know that's worth a hundred thousand dollars..."

I said, "Brother, do you mean to tell me just what you got through saying? That the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed."

And here's what he said. Said, "The old hypocrite..." (he meant the unbeliever)... "The old..." (unbeliever) "has always said, that there was no scientific way to prove a supernatural Being. Now, they can't say that no more. Here's absolutely, scientific proof that there is a supernatural Being." And scientifically proved by this mechanical camera here that took the light of that Angel standing there, and said, "It's absolutely is the truth."

And I said, "Well, if Jesus Christ thought enough of me to come down and have His picture taken by me for the first time in all the world, you think I'm a little enough to commercialize this picture?"

And he said, "No, I wouldn't think that."

I said, "I turn it over to the Douglas Studios."

He said, "There ought to be some kind of an agreement."

I said, "Sure, they can sell it. They can, as long as they keep it cheap enough that poor people can get it."

He said, "Someday, Reverend Branham, you may be dead and gone, but it'll be sold in ten-cent stores."

And I said, "Well, for the glory of God that would be fine."

So then, tonight the picture's here. George J. Lacy is a living today. He's still in this work, and the picture lives on and if I would die this night, what I testified about this scientific world can't say it isn't so, because there's scientific machinery and proof that I've told the truth. And the church of millions of people that's been preached to in the past few years have seen it and watched it, and know it yourself, that I've told the truth. And God testified that it is the truth. That's right. So the testimony is absolutely true.

Now look, Christian friends, you're looking for something way out yonder to come. You're looking for something way back this a way. Don't do that. It's right here now, right here now. Just as much as you'll ever see is... Only you might see it in greater quantity, but the Holy Spirit is here now which is the Lord Jesus Christ in His resurrection.

The following article is a re-typeset compilation done many years ago of the material that appeared in the Houston newspapers. It is not a direct copy of an actual newspaper of the times although it has been made to look authentic. The compilation omits the usual advertisements that would normally be found in a standard newspaper.

The Houston Press

VOL. 39 NO. 107

Phone FA-1111

HOUSTON, TEXAS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1950

Baptist Cleric To Challenge 'Miracle Man'

Rev. Best Faces

Rev. Bosworth

By LOUIS HOFFERBERT
Press Staff Writer

A Baptist minister and a "divine healer" will meet in the Coliseum at 7 tonight in an open debate on the question of modern miracles.

The meeting was quickly arranged today after the Houston Baptist Pastors Conference yesterday heard a bitter attack on "faith healers" and "religious racketeers" and approved a challenge to the Rev. William Branham, and the Rev. F. F. Bosworth, who are conducting an evangelistic meeting that features "miracles every day."

There was a disagreement today over which side issued the challenge, but it was agreed the debate would be held at the Coliseum, where the Branham-Bosworth services are in progress.

Equal Time

The time allotted to each speaker will be determined just before the debate begins, but both sides agree the time will be divided equally.



REV. W. E. BEST

REV. F. F. BOSWORTH

They both talked at once.

Champion for the Baptists will be the Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, who blasted the "divine healers" in a talk before the ministers' conference.

Rev. Bosworth said today he will take the platform to present his side, and was not sure whether Rev. Branham also would speak.

His Book

The Rev. Best said the Baptists were accepting the challenge laid down by the Rev. Bosworth, inviting anyone to disprove statements in his book entitled, "Jesus the Healer."

The Rev. Bosworth said the challenge came from the Baptists and that he was "happy to discuss the question at any length."

The Rev. Bosworth said he is willing to cancel the usual "healing service" tonight and devote the full time to the debate, but is not willing to take the same time on other nights.

Healing Needed

"We will be glad to continue the debate at some other hour every day for a month, if the Baptist ministers wish to do so," the Rev. Bosworth said. "But our healing services are too important to be canceled more than once."

The length of time to be allotted to each speaker will be left to the principals.

The Rev. Best said it was up to the Rev. Bosworth to fix the limits.

The Rev. Bosworth said the Rev. Best could "have as much time as he wants, and we will take the same."

Needs No Support

The Rev. Best said he was not sure if other Baptist ministers will accompany him to the meeting tonight, but said some probably will.

"I need no moral support," the Rev. Best said, "but it may be wise to have some police protection."

Both of the leading participants in tonight's debate issued statements today setting out their positions.

"The Baptists have always believed in the freedom of worship," the Rev. Best said, "but we also believe we should expose that which is in error."

Apostle Paul

"The Apostle Paul says: 'For there are many deceivers whose mouths must be stopped . . . who subvert whole houses, teaching

things they ought not for filthy lucre's sake.'

"We do not believe that Christ bore our physical infirmities as well as our sins on the Cross, and that today we should not be sick."

The Rev. Bosworth, who described his associate, the Rev. Branham, as "a man perfectly sincere in his work," declared:

His Booklet

"In a booklet entitled 'Why Some in Our Day May Fail to be Healed' I have given 22 unanswerable proofs of Christ's present attitude toward divine healing.

"For 25 years I have had an open challenge to disprove the statements, but that challenge has never been taken up before."

"I am happy to meet with the Baptist minister and discuss the question, and if I can be shown that I am wrong I will publicly admit it and will challenge my teaching."

"My statements are Scripture-proven."

The Baptists, the Rev. Bosworth said "are just not well posted" on the matter of divine healing, and added:

"But there is no personal quarrel involved here. I honor any man who opposed what he thinks is wrong."

The Branham-Bosworth revival group has been holding services in Houston for two weeks.

Life Story

At meetings this week, according to newspaper and poster advertisements, the Rev. Branham will tell his life story, including an account of how an angel visited him on May 7, 1946, bringing a message that he had been chosen to perform miracles of divine healing.

Advertisements of the meeting also have been carried on street banners, streetcar cards and on the radio. They feature the statement: "Incurable diseases and afflictions supernaturally diagnosed and healed."

The meetings have drawn an estimated 5000 people every day.

20,000 Wanted

The Coliseum will seat approximately 20,000 persons and the Rev. Bosworth said today he "hopes every seat will be filled" to hear the debate.

The Baptists, also anticipating a record attendance, declared yesterday they would agree to the debate "in the largest auditorium in Houston, or an open field if necessary."

When he brought the question of "divine healers" and "religious racketeers" before the ministers' conference yesterday, the Rev. Best pounded a table vehemently and declared:

"These deceivers should be exposed. They are leading the people astray."

"I am not opposed to divine healing, but I am opposed to 'divine healers' as such."

He referred to the Rev. Branham by name and declared:

"We ought to run him out of town."

22 Invalids Just Asking for Prayer

By BEN KAPLAN
Press Staff Writer

They came in wheel chairs and cots, in the arms of loved ones, hoping for the miracle and clinging desperately to a faith they hoped would make shriveled limbs sound.

There were 22 of them, unable to walk, crowded up to catch every word from the Rev. F. F. Bosworth, upholding faith-healing Rev. William Branham, in his debate with the Rev. W. E. Best, the Baptist pastor who charged the Rev. Branham was bewitching his audience night after night.

Hope for Prayer

The 22 had been to the Coliseum and Auditorium night after night themselves, hoping the Rev. Branham would make an individual prayer over them, so they'd be well.

Somehow, he hadn't gotten around to them. But in the two weeks he'll continue here, they had faith that he would. Then they'd be able to leave their sickbeds and wheelchairs, hale and hearty.

They had the faith. They were sure the Rev. Branham had the power through God's Spirit, to help them get well.

There were many Baptists in the crowd to cheer the Rev. Best last night, although they were greatly outnumbered.

Polite Hearing

The Rev. William T. Richey appealed to the audience to give each speaker a polite hearing.

"When you agree with the speaker, say 'amen' and when you disagree, say 'no,'" he asked.

For nearly four hours, the Coliseum rocked with "amens" and "nos."

When the Rev. Best made a point, the Rev. Bosworth would rush to the microphone on the stage from which the speakers held forth and dramatically ask those in the audience who had been cured through faith to stand.

Hundreds Rise

Each time hundreds would rise. "How many of you are Baptists?" the Rev. Bosworth shouted.

At least 100 stood up. "No man has the power to heal!" declared the Rev. Best.

To Mrs. W. E. Wilbanks of 712 Teetshorn, the Rev. Best misrepresented the slight, black-haired evangelist who has been preaching to crowds of 5000 nightly.

She's a Baptist

"I'm a Baptist myself," said Mrs. Wilbanks. "Brother Branham does not claim the power of divine healing. It is simply that faith and the spirit of God working through him heal people. Rev. Best is misrepresenting Baptist sentiment in attacking Rev. Branham."

Ordinarily, the way the miracle cures are developed, persons in the audience fill out cards which bear a number and their name. The Rev. Branham picks a number and prays for the cure of that person. Occasionally, he selects a person at random.

Those attending are informed that it is possible they won't be reached during the evening for an individual prayer—but they come, night after night, hoping that their turn will arrive.

Woman Reborn

Mrs. Mary Georgia Hardy, 708 Columbia, said she was "reborn three years ago," but that she first experienced the wonders of faith healing 18 years ago.

"After the birth of my second child, I was a nervous wreck, but faith healing made me well and I've had two children since," said Mrs. Hardy, attends the Assembly of God Church at 18th and Ashland in the Heights.

Sitting next to her, Mrs. Gray Walker of 2501 Blodgett, pointed to her four-year-old grandchild, Diane Cox.

She's Well Now

"Diane was born with a clubfoot. A doctor wanted to put the foot in a cast but our Assembly of God pastor, the Rev. J. C. Miner, suggested we try prayer. We did. Gradually—over a period of weeks—the foot straightened out. Diane is well now."

One week ago, during a general prayer by Rev. Branham, Mrs. W. E. Miller who lives on the Genoa-Alameda road, was suddenly cured of chronic sinus trouble, she said.

"I was simply praying for others when it happened," she said.

When the Rev. Best shouted there were those "who used sorcery to bewitch people, so that people are sincerely misled and say it's the power of God," James Ayres, a commercial photographer of 1610 Rusk, agreed.

"Branham puts on a show," said Mr. Ayres. "Somehow he never gets around to the cripples and the persons who have arthritis. He simply hypnotizes his audience."

8000 Hear Faith Healer, Pastor Debate

Fists Swing, Words

Fly at Coliseum

8000 Crowd Into Coliseum as Baptist Pastor
Challenges Curing Claims of 'Miracle Men'

By LOUIS HOFFERBERT

Press Staff Writer

A thousand years and more ago learned men would debate over how many angels could stand on the point of a needle.

Then they would have a fight to see who won.

The atomic age was forgotten and time rolled backward in Houston last night when some 8000 persons crowded into the Coliseum to hear a Baptist minister and an evangelistic preacher debate over the power of divine healing.

Fight Follows

Bystanders broke up the fight before the question was settled.

The principal debaters had no hand in the fight—that was in the audience—but they almost wrestled for possession of the microphone at times as they shot heated verbal barbs back and forth.

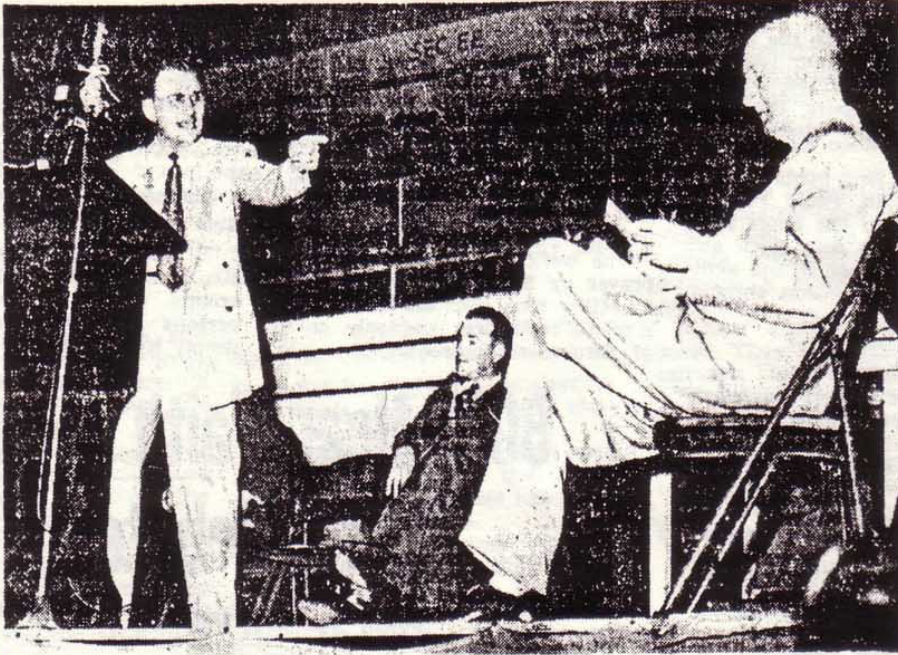
On one side was the Rev. W. E. Best, fiery pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, who appeared as the spokesman for the Houston Baptist Pastors Conference and took the view that power of divine healing died with the Apostles.

Audience Testifies

On the other was the Rev. F. F. Bosworth, suave, balding itinerant evangelist who offered the testimony of the audience itself to prove that miracles of healing are accomplished every day.

During the three-hour meeting, broken by frequent outbursts of applause and disapproval from the audience, the principals agreed on only two points—that Christ and His disciples did have the power of divine healing; and that you can't believe what you read in the newspapers.

While the argument rolled back and forth a half dozen sick and afflicted lay on cots and stretchers in front of the platform, brought there in the hope that they would be cured by miracles. But no heal-



"THIS IS NOT HEAVEN ON EARTH." shouts Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, as Rev. F. F. Bosworth, an out-of-town evangelist, sits quietly listening. The debate between the two preachers centered around whether any man has the power of miraculous healing.



A NEAR BATTLE WAS AVERTED by quick thinking ushers during the debate between a Houston Baptist preacher and an out-of-town evangelist in Sam Houston Coliseum Tuesday night. The coatless man in the foreground here, Martin Jones of 1315 Shearn, and the son of Rev. H. T. Dennis exchanged light blows before they were pulled apart by ushers. Rev. Mr. Dennis is seen in the back being held by one usher and shielded by another, with his son beside him.

ing was attempted by the Rev. Bosworth or by his associate, the Rev. William Branham, whose activities during a two-week meeting brought on the debate in the first place.

Comes the Battle

The fight, if it could be called that, was brief and inconclusive. It came near the end of the meeting while the Rev. Best was being pressed to answer a question on whether his appearance had been "cleared" by the "publicity department of the Baptist organization of this district."

The Rev. Best turned to a dozen other Baptist ministers seated in a group to the right of the platform and said:

"I'll let them answer."

The group moved in a body toward the platform while other members of the audience crowded close.

Suddenly a fist lashed out. It struck Martin Jones, 1315 Shearn, a salesman in a downtown store, across the nose and inflicted a slight cut.

Mr. Jones whipped off his coat and whirled around, but could not find his assailant.

Fist Waver

Mr. Jones retired to the sidelines, grumbling, while a tall, black-haired young man dashed in front of the platform, waved his clenched fists and shouted:

"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

In the confusion the Rev. Best stepped down from the platform and the group of Baptist ministers disappeared.

Earlier in the meeting statements made by the Rev. Best brought a heated interruption from the Rev. Raymond Richey, pastor of the Evangelistic Temple, who indignantly refused to remain on the platform with the speaker and ostentatiously placed his chair in the audience.

Rev. Bosworth First

The debate itself started quietly enough, with the Rev. Bosworth taking the platform first.

A tall, gray-haired and slightly balding man, with a slow, soft voice, the Rev. Bosworth outlined his doctrine that seven Hebrew compound names—he called them redemptive names—are proof that the spirit of God still heals through faith. He cited the name Jehovah-Japhat, interpreted as "the Lord that healeth" as the final proof.

The Rev. Bosworth called upon the audience to attest to healing miracles. When he asked for all who had been cured miraculously to stand several hundred in the audience rose to their feet.

He Has the Letters

The Rev. Bosworth also declared he has "thousands and thousands" of letters and testimonials telling of miraculous cures.

The Rev. Best sat quietly during the long opening talk and the Rev. Bosworth concluded without interruption.

But the Rev. Best did not fare so well.

He opened with a declaration that the audience was being "sincerely misled" and was immediately greeted with cries of "No! No! No!" from the crowd.

Proof by Scriptures

"You can prove anything by testimonials," the Rev. Best went on. "What I am interested in is what the Scriptures say."

He started to read from a booklet written by the Rev. Bosworth, when a member of the Branham-Bosworth group on the platform ran forward, seized the microphone over the Rev. Best's shoulder and shouted:

"I call on you all to witness. He's not reading from the Bible."

"What difference does it make?" the Rev. Best shouted back. "Mr. Bosworth also read from writings that are not the Bible."

The Rev. Bosworth, who had taken a seat at the edge of the platform, nodded, then stood up to agree and the crowd quietened.

More Interruptions

Again and again during his rapid, heated declaration, sprinkled with biblical quotations, the Rev. Best was interrupted by cries of "No. No." from the the audience, but he also was greeted with bursts of applause and shouts of "amen" at some points.

The sharpest exchanges came in the closing minutes of rebuttal.

"The Bible says 'He bore our sicknesses,' the Rev. Bosworth shouted. "Whose does that mean?"

Cries of "yours" and "yours and mine" rang out from the floor.

Gray Hair, Glasses

The Rev. Best ran back to the microphone, pointed a finger at the Rev. Bosworth and shouted:

"Why does he have gray hair? Why does he wear glasses?"

The Rev. Bosworth didn't answer.

But he raised the question of whether the Rev. Best officially represented Houston Baptists.

"No. No. No. No." came from the audience again.

"Where is his idea of religious tolerance," the Rev. Bosworth demanded. "If he wants to run any preacher out of town."

Scriptures Again

The Rev. Best ran back and the two wrestled for the microphone as the Rev. Best shouted:

"When he shows me he has the power of the Apostles I will believe."

"What do the Scriptures teach?"

"They teach the opposite of everything you have said here tonight," the Rev. Bosworth shot back, and the crowd roared.

At the very last the Rev. Branham walked slowly to the platform amid prolonged applause and spoke briefly. He is dark and slender with deep-set eyes and a soft, persuasive voice. He declared:

"I have never taken any credit for healing, or claimed to have the power to heal. Jesus didn't take such credit, but said it was the power of His Father."

'Give Us More'

"Our friend (referring to the Rev. Best) has spoken of 'religious racketeers.' During this meeting 3000 have been saved. If that is racketeering, God give us more racketeers."

"If I am not doing good in Houston you won't have to run me out, I'll leave."

"No. No. No. No. No." came the shouts from the audience.

"But if you want me to stay . . ." the Rev. Branham concluded with a smile, and the applause was deafening.

As the Rev. Branham left the platform a group of followers quickly surrounded him and the group marched in almost military fashion to a rear door and the evangelist disappeared into the night.

His associates ended the meeting with prayers.

Extensive coverage of the debate was published the following day in the Houston Press and Houston Chronicle. These articles can be found within DVD No 3 of the William Branham Storehouse Collection. The following are also copies of actual newspaper publications.

Pastor And 'Faith Healer' Plan Debate Houston Baptist Refutes 'Miracles Every Night' Claim

HOUSTON, Jan. 24. (EP)—A Baptist minister and two preachers performing "miracles every night" agreed today to hold an open debate on faith healing and modern miracles.

Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church here, admitted he might need police protection tonight when he meets the

Rev. William Branham and Rev. F. F. Bosworth on the stage of Sam Houston Coliseum.

Rev. Best was named yesterday by the Baptist pastors convention to champion the case against "faith healers." He immediately accepted, announcing that such activities had "led the people astray."

Rev. Branham and Rev. Bosworth, two transient evangelists, have preached to a packed house in the coliseum for the last two weeks. Their meetings, advertised in local papers, on radio stations and by placards, feature a "faith healing" period for the infirm.

A canvas sign stretching across the coliseum advertises "Miracles Every Night."

The issue about who made the challenge was hazy, but Rev. Branham said he alone would represent his side. He insisted that local Baptist ministers challenged him.

Rev. Best announced he was accepting a challenge laid down by Rev. Bosworth.

The debate, set for 7 p.m., seemed likely to eclipse the usual "healing" services but only for one night.

"We will be glad to continue the debate at some other hour every day for a month," Rev. Bosworth stated, "but our healing services are too important to be cancelled more than just this once."

Rev. Best was not certain that he would have a colleague on the stage, either.

"I need no moral support, but it may be wise to have some police protection," he commented.

Rev. Bosworth, author of a booklet entitled "Why Some in Our Day May Fail to be Healed," claims to have presented 22 "unanswerable proofs of Christ's present attitude toward divine healing."

This is the first time in 25 years, he stated, that anyone has chosen to refute his views.

The Baytown Sun,
Baytown, Texas
Tues, January 24, 1950

Baptist Ministers Rap Traveling Divine Healers

HOUSTON, Texas, (UP)—Baptist ministers here condemned traveling "divine healers" and suggested an open debate between a preacher from their midst and the Rev. William Branham, currently performing "miracles every night."

Delegates to the Baptist pastors' conference spoke harshly against the transient "healers," and instructed a committee to challenge them — and particularly the Rev. Branham.

The Rev. W. E. Best, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, consented to champion the local cause. He said once the debate challenge is formally issued, he will demand the Rev. Branham answer questions about himself and his activities.

"These persons should be exposed. They are leading the people astray," Rev. Best commented.

He emphasized that he was not opposed to divine healing, but was

opposed to persons who advertise themselves as "divine healers."

Rev. Branham, meantime, has enjoyed packed audiences in spacious Sam Houston Coliseum every night for the past two weeks.

His meetings are well advertised in newspapers, on posters and by radio. Across the front of the coliseum, a big sign proclaims, "miracles every night."

The Windsor Daily Star,
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Tues, January 24, 1950

BROTHER BRANHAM REFERS TO THE 'HALO OF LIGHT' PHOTO IN VARIOUS SERMONS;

The Angel Of The Lord Los Angeles CA 51-0502

45 Then down at Houston, Texas, when a... own... Right in my own faith, the Baptist church, a minister discussing before many many thousands of people there in a big stadium. They was all discussing. This minister said, "I'd like to see that miracle worker. I like to see him," just acting smart.

And Doctor Bosworth, he was the manager at that time, said, "I know Brother Branham's in here." I was up in balcony thirty. He said, "If he wants to come down and dismiss the audience, all right." When I walked down, I said, "Brethren, I only testify for the truth. I am not a Divine healer." I said, "My literature is published practically in every language under heaven; I've spoke direct or indirect to around five or six million people. And never did I ever say that I was a Divine healer. But to the contrary, I said Jesus Christ is the only Healer there is." I said, "He has sent me with signs and wonders," I said, "which is infallible. I can prove that tonight." I said, "That's infallible. And if I speak the truth, God will testify of me. If I speak not the truth, He will have nothing to do with me." And about that time from heaven, here He come whirling down where I was at before thirty thousand people. There It whirled down.

46 And a photographer who had been hired, on the American Photographer's Association, come there to take six pictures of the man that was holding the debate--by the enemy. He snapped six pictures of him. And they asked all of them, the Look, Life, and Time, and them reporters to get back, take no pictures because they sell them. And this man run forward and shot a picture of It. And that night...

He was an Orthodox Jew. The other man that was with him was a Roman Catholic. They took the picture home, put it in the--the acids to develop it. And to find out... And when they brought it out, my enemy's picture... Not my enemy, I wouldn't say that. He was an enemy of Christ, saying that he did... even denied healing of Christ. He said, "Lazarus died, and Jesus spay--supposed to rise him again," said, "then he died again."

He said, "When this corruption puts on incorruption, this mortal put on immortality."

Doctor Bosworth said, "I believe every word of that. But we're talking about Divine healing, the earnest of our salvation. That's what we're speaking of. If there's no Divine healing, there's no redemption of the body. We have the earnest, the down payment of our salvation now." Amen.

47 Notice. And then when the man pulled out those six pictures of the minister that was debating that the Divine healing, and I was a devil and so forth. Every one of them was solid black and blank. There's his name and address. Send to the American Photographers Association and find out.

When he pulled out the one he snapped, there was the Angel of God's picture whirling around where I was at. The first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed.

It was rushed to Washington, D.C., copyrighted, sent back and give to George J. Lacy, J. Edgar Hoover's, examiner. They kept it two days at the Shell Building in Houston.

And when he come over there, and they all set out there together to find out what it was all about, he said, "Who's name is Branham?"

I said, "Mine, sir."

He said, "Stand up."

He looked, said, "Mr. Branham, you'll die like all mortals do. But as long as there's a Christian civilization, your picture will never die." He said, "Because it's the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed." He said, "The old hypocrite has always said, "They... Scientifically, you can't prove there is a God." But said, "That has to be changed now, for here's scientifically... The Angel of God was there, and the Light struck the negative." There it was. There he signed... wrote out a big document, signed his name to it. There it is right back there. You can look at it yourself. There's the Angel of the Lord.

48 Brother, sister, if I don't come here tomorrow night, and you never see me again 'less I'm in a casket somewhere, I still say that God has testified that I've told the truth. The Church knows it by signs and wonders; the scientist knows it by scientific research. And this same... I believe that's the same Pillar of Fire that followed the children of Israel. It's not me; it's Him. He can fail to come tonight. I have--have nothing to do with it. It's your faith that believes that it brings It down here to this present tense. Hallelujah.

Don't think I'm excited. I'm not. I know what I'm speaking about.

The Angel of God on the water of the pool of Bethesda, it was not the water that done the healing; it was the Angel that was on the water, and the faith of the people that stepped into it.

The Angel Of The Lord Toledo OH 51-0718

28 Mr. Best went over and hired a commercial photographer. Now, here's the remarks he said: "Come over and take six glossies of me (six pictures), I want to have a picture where I skin that old man." He said, "I'm going to skin him, and take his hide, and rub salt in it, and hang it up on my door, in here in my study."

Could you imagine a Christian talking like that? "By their fruits you shall know them." And the first fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, patience. Now, but that's what the man said. And so Mr. Kipperman, and Mr. Ayres, of the Douglas Studios, in Houston, Texas came over. And that night there was a big platform table setting there, and they had the "Look," "Life," "Time," "Colliers," and all the newspapers, and they were taking pictures.

And so when the debate started, Mr. Cy Ramsar... how many knows Cy Ramsar? He was leading the songs. And--and then when he got through, he made this remark; he said, "I seen in the paper where you was... that Brother Branham was a religious racketeer, and should be run out of the city." Said, "If the people of this city would put more time running bootleggers out of the city instead of religious men, you'd be better off."

29 And there... the people begin crying, and going on. And they told me I didn't have to come down. But I went up in balcony thirty, box thirty, two police, and my brother, and wife, little girl, we went up there and set down; they'd taken me up. And I was setting there. I said I wouldn't have nothing to do with it at all. And I didn't believe in arguing.

So that night watching... And when Mr. Bosworth got to the platform, he'd taken his--his paper, and he said... and people on by the sides, which wasn't on either side of the debate. He said, "Mr. Best has taken the--the side to say the... my opponent here, that--that Divine healing isn't taught in the New Testament." He said, "I've got six hundred Scriptures of the New Testament and Old, written out here, that Christ's present attitude to the people for Divine healing is the same today as it ever was. If Mr. Best will take this and disprove one of them, not by his textbook, but by the Bible, you won't have to do no more, and I will walk away and say, 'I've been in error all the time.' Anyone of those six hundred questions..." He said, "Now, Mr. Best, you're at liberty." And he wouldn't receive it. He said, "I will ask you any one of them if you'll correctly, by the Scriptures, prove that it's wrong, then I will--I will walk off the platform." Said, "That ought to be well enough; there's six hundred of them, and I want you to produce one, if you'll show me one, that's... is contrary to any of these, then I will say I'm wrong, and I will show you six hundred to start with." Said, "Looks like the odds is pretty bad there."

30 So he said... he wouldn't do it. So the moderator asked, and so he said, "All right, Mr. Best answer me this." He said, "Was the compound names of Jehovah, Jehovah's redemptive, compound names, were they applied to Jesus, yes, or no?"

Well, that like to shook me off of the seat up there. Well, Mr. Best thought he couldn't answer. If He was--if He was Jehovah-jireh, the Lord will provide His Sacrifice, if He was--if He wasn't Jehovah-jireh, He isn't the Savior. And if He is Jehovah-jireh, He's Jehovah-rapha, the Healer. And if He is Jehovah-jireh, and Jehovah-rapha, He's "the same yesterday, today, and for ever," so He's just the same Healer. That settled it; nothing could be said no more.

So Mr. Best got real angry and begin to stomp up-and-down the floor, and said, "Bring that Divine healer out, let me see him."

31 And Brother Bosworth said, "Brother Best, I--I certainly apologize," said that--that, "Brother Branham is no Divine healer, and never said he was." He said, "Would you..." said, "Do you believe in salvation?"

"Yes, sir."

He said, "Would you want to be called a Divine Savior?" Said, "If preaching Divine healing makes Brother Branham a Divine healer, preaching salvation makes you a Divine Savior." He said, "You know you're not a Savior."

"Certainly not."

Said, "Neither is he a healer. If you're ever saved it's in Christ. If you're ever healed it's in Christ. You point to salvation; so does Brother Branham. And he points to healing in the atonement. Now, if you want to argue that," said, "just step out on it (See?) for it was in the atonement."

32 So he said, "You bring that healer forth, and let me see him heal somebody." And kept on like that.

Brother Bosworth said, "Now, Brother Branham takes his time praying." And said, "He don't argue with people, and he just... that's..." He said, "Now, however..." (at the end of the debate), he said, "Brother Branham is in the building. If he wants to come and dismiss the audience, all right. If he

doesn't, why he's not--don't have to, but," said, "I know he's in the building somewhere," said, "for awhile ago, I seen them when they come in."

33 And I was setting there, and my brother, Howard... Many of you knew Howard. He was kind of, real typical Irishman, he said, "Now you set still." Standing right behind me, and two police standing there... And just as he said that, I felt Something going [Brother Branham makes whirling sound--Ed.] I thought, "Oh, no. Huh-uh, I can listen so far, but that's first. I felt It again coming down, going [He describes the sound again--Ed.] Something just picked me up. My wife started crying. I said, "Don't cry, honey."

And Howard said, "Set down."

I said, "It's the Holy Spirit, Howard," and he dropped back.

34 And the people looked up there, about that time, and they started weeping. And about three or four hundred ushers put their hands together as people pressing through trying to touch your clothes or something. It's pitifully. I know how I'd feel if my baby or something was sick, and the doctors had give it up, and I thought there was something could help it. I'd be trying to get in, too. And I'm only human, like anybody else, and it breaks my heart to see such scenes.

And I started walking to the platform. Mr... the... Kipperman and them had took all their pictures. And when I go, they don't let us take pictures in the meeting, because they sell them and so forth. So he... they said, "No more pictures taken." Brother Lindsay and them dropped back the people from taking the pictures, and so forth.

35 I walked to the platform; I said, "Don't no one think hard of Mr. Best. That's why the boys are over in Korea fighting. We can be Americans to believe anything we want to." I said, "I don't agree with his theory, not at all," but I said, "as a man, all right." I said, "Some mother loves him just the same as my mother loves me. And don't feel hard at him; he's got a right to his belief." I said, "Now, however, I--I was minded of my Savior, when they put a rag around his eyes one time, and they thought He had mental telepathy or something, and they hit Him on the head with a reed, and said, 'Now, if You're a prophet, prophesy, and say who hit You.'" You remember that? Said, "Now prophesy." He didn't clown for nobody; He did what the Father showed Him. So they put a rag over His eyes and hit Him. And they felt no virtue, and neither did He prophesy. He didn't clown for anybody.

36 And I said, "I do not claim to be a Divine healer." I said, "I only claim to pray for the sick. And I claim a Divine gift, that I was born in this world with, and an Angel of God Who comes to me in the form of a Light..." And I said, "It's come to me many times. It comes in the meetings." I said, "If I tell the truth, well, then, it's the truth." But I said, "I cannot heal any one, no more than Mr. Best, or any other man can save anybody." I said, "But they were sent to preach. I'm not very much of a preacher, but I've seen thousands saved. I've seen as many as two thousand at one altar call, but if a--but that's not what we're talking on, Divine healing."

37 And I said, "Now, the person can't come here without God telling me what's on his heart, and what he's done, and the things of his life. That's a Divine gift that was sent from Heaven to me, that's my individual. God gave that to me when He brought me in this world." I said, "You can't keep your sins, and so forth, hid, and the thoughts of your heart and mind." I said, "And whatever that you've done in your life, and what your outcome is, you can't keep me from telling you that. But I could pray for you until you for... till we both got old and gray, and you with a toothache, until you accept Jesus as your Healer, it'll always be there, for healing only is in Chr... God Almighty."

38 I said, "And if I tell the truth," I said, "I tell about an Angel. If I tell the truth, God will testify that I've told the truth. I said, "As Jesus told the Jews, 'I have greater works than those of John, for the works the Father has sent Me to do, the same testifies that I am sent from God.'" And I said, "If He doesn't testify, then I'm wrong. If He does testify, then I am right. Not because that it's me, but because it's He that sent me is right." And I said, "Anyone knows that God will have nothing to do with error, and if I tell the truth, then God will speak of me."

39 Oh, I shall never forget it. And about that time the heavens let loose, and here He come, coming down over me, going [Brother Branham makes a whirling sound--Ed.] Everyone sit still. And the man who had taken the pictures of Mr. Best, before he knowed what he was doing, run forward and snapped the picture. God had testified. There was no more for me to do. I said, "Thank You, Father," walked off the platform. Everybody set still; they didn't know what was happening.

This man, going home... Mr. Kipperman's an Orthodox Jew. Mr. Ayres is a Roman Catholic. He wrote in the paper the day before and said I was a hypnotizer. Said a goiter went off of a woman throat, that I hypnotized her. And a young soldier who'd been crippled overseas in his back, his spine, and was saw laying on a place and was told what was wrong with him, and told him to rise to his feet. And him laying there paralyzed, rose to his feet and walked out, said that man was bewitched, made all kinds of fun of me in the paper. And on his road home, he said to Mr...?... he said, "What do you think about it, Ted?"

Ted said, "I don't know."

40 Mr. Ayres said, "I'm a Catholic," he said, "I'm taught to believe in such things, but it can only come through the Catholic church. If it was... if he was real, he'd be in the Catholic church." And many of you... I... my former people were Catholic. Many of you Catholics in there know that we been taught that, that it has to be in the Catholic church. So did the Jews think that Jesus would come to the temple, but He didn't. He went where God told Him. God does things in mysterious ways. You wouldn't have thought He'd been born in a manger, but He was, Now, they went in. He said, "Well, let's fix these pictures for Best." And he threwed them in the acid, six of them for Mr. Best. And he shot one of them from that, but he just throwed it in.

41 Mr. Kipperman went upstairs to go to bed, and Mr. Best, or Mr. Ayres setting, smoking a cigarette. And after while he went in, took them out of the acid, took out one, blank, two, blank. Took out all six of them, they were blank. And when he took the next one out, there the Angel of the Lord was on the picture. And he had a heart attack. They tried to get him to Rice Hotel, of course they was guarding the door, wouldn't let them come in to where we was... to where I was at.

42 And then quickly, they referred to it, and went down there, and they sent it away at eleven o'clock that night to Washington, D.C., and copyrighted it. Then it was sent back to Houston. And it was given into the hands of George J. Lacy, the best examiner in the United States, ex-FBI. And he kept it, said, "Now..." a very hard boiled. He kept it and said, "Now, wait a minute," said, "I will look it over," and so forth like that. And--and he took it into the Shell Building for examination, which was... Shell Building for examination and document. He just come from California on a half a million dollar case, and they brought him over there. He kept the picture for two days; then he sent word, said, "We'll give the reading on it, and let you know about it on two o'clock, on the following afternoon, on the third day. Big bunch of photographers, and so forth, gathered in. Many of the people around the city, like the writer for the "Colliers" and "Times," they gathered in.

43 And when he come out, he's kind of a red headed fellow, very hard-boiled. He walked out sarcastic; I looked at him, and looked like his face had tendered up. He said, "Whose name's Reverend Branham?"

And I said, "Mine, sir."

He said, "Stand up on your feet." And I stood up.

He said, "Reverend Branham, one of these days, you're going to pass off of life's scenes like all mortals do."

I said, "I'm aware of that, sir."

He said, "But as long as there's a Christian civilization, your picture shall never die." He said, "It's the first time in all the world's history that a supernatural Being was ever photographed. But I put it through every test that can be thought, and," said, "It was a supernatural Being that's been shot." He said, "For myself, I have said and heard of your meetings, and read it in the magazines, and I heard about that Angel, and so forth. I said within myself, even to the time that I received the negative, 'It's psychology.'" He said, "But Brother Branham, the mechanical eye of that camera will not take psychology." Said, "The Light struck the negative."

44 He said, "My mother was a Christian. And I--I thought I was." He said, "But God have mercy on me." He said, "Come forward." And everybody started crying. He...?... said, "It was once said, Brother Branham, by the old hypocrite (he meant the unbeliever), that there's no scientific proof of the supernatural Being." Said, "Them days is passed now." He had the negative in his hand. He said, "Them days is passed." And he said, "It's scientifically proven that here's the supernatural Being." He said, "Mr. Branham, I will submit this to you."

I said, "It's not mine, sir."

He said, "Oh, wait a minute," said, "that negative's worth a hundred thousand dollars right the way..."

I said, "If it... to me, It's worth life."

45 He said, "Brother Branham, do you realize what..." said, "You'll never live to see the day that the picture comes into it's value, because the--the testator is always dead before the testament is seen." And he said, "It'll be in the days after you're gone." He said, "But right now, do you realize what that is?"

And I said, "Sir, It belongs to the American Photographers Association." I said, "It... if Jesus Christ, my Lord, thought enough of me, to come down in a battle like I was, and have His picture taken with me, for the first time in all the world's history, I love Him too well to commercialize it." And I said, "I will have nothing to do with it."

46 So then they asked me if I'd draw up a plan with them. The lawyers was there, and everything. The studio had the lawyers. And I said, "I will sign no papers. But Mr. Kipperman and you, if you wish to sell it, make it enough so every person (poor people) can get it." But I said, "look, another thing I will require for the sacredness of the picture, that Mr. Lacy, that you'll sign a

document, so that the critics will be shut up when they look at it." I said, "and sign a document. And I will ask you, Mr. Kipperman, and you (in the agreement), that you're privileged to sell it. I will sign no papers, but you're privileged to sell it, low priced so the people can get a hold of it, and that no picture can go without a writing signed statement from Mr. Lacy, here, who's our best in America." So I'd think it was the best in the world.

And he said, "I will do that."

And he wrote up a--a thing, what he'd done, and went to the auditorium, he searched to see if it was a double exposure, and there just above the head, where it was settling down, was the big Pillar of Fire a whirling around, and around, and around.

47 He said, "Brother Branham, in the... looking through the negative through the ultra-ray lights, and so forth, it looked like it was kind of a yellow, greenish looking fire, a milling, like this." And I said, "That's just the way It is." And people there who seen It.

To my opinion, here's what I think it would be, while I read the Scriptures. First, I have the picture here; I want to show it to you. Mr. Kipperman sells them sometimes at the meeting. But when I found out that he was overcharging the people for it, I wouldn't let them sell it in the meetings. Because the picture wouldn't cost over thirty or forty cents, not over fifty at the most, and selling it for a dollar and a quarter is too much. So I... Can you see it back there?

48 Now, at nighttime, when you see those things going on here, it's not me that does that; here is the One that does it. How many can see how far back, let's see your hand, way back. I will have my boy to take it to the stand back there. And in here also, if you'd like to read Mr. Lacy's write up, there it is. You can have a photostatic copy... A photostatic copy's in my book there, but they won't let us (the studios), won't let me print the picture in my book. They let me have the... this, for this is copyrighted. See on the back, and on here? And you couldn't touch it (See?), because it's copyrighted, and they've got it in Washington, D.C. **And one of them hangs in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.¹**, as the first photograph that was ever taken of a supernatural Being.

49 You know what I think, friends? I think that here's where this is, in Exodus 13:21: And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud (a pillar of a cloud), to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by night and day:

He took not away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people. And with a reverent, sincere heart, I believe that that's the same Angel of God that led Israel out of Egypt to the promised land in the natural, is leading us to the promised land today, in the spiritual. For "In My Father's house are many mansions: I will go and prepare a place for you." And I believe the Angel of the Lord is leading the Church today, and It's the same Holy Spirit. And anyone

¹ The Halo photograph is held in the archives of the Library of Congress, Washington D.C., and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95512174/>. An image of this web page can be viewed on the next page of this study. If visitors take a USB memory stick with them, they can download a copy of the Halo Photo digital file while at the Library.

The photo has been made freely available since Brother Branham was given the copyright in 1963 after he went to Houston, Texas on March 4 to seek clemency for the step son of the photographer when the step son was on death row. Out of gratitude, the photographer gave Brother Branham the copyright to the photo.

The screenshot shows the Library of Congress website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Library of Congress logo, buttons for 'ASK A LIBRARIAN', 'DIGITAL COLLECTIONS', and 'LIBRARY CATALOGS', and a search box with a 'GO' button. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Library of Congress > Prints & Photographs Reading Room > Prints & Photographs Online Catalog > Record'. The main content area features a search bar with 'Search All' and 'GO' buttons, and links for 'Advanced' and 'Help'. On the left, there is a thumbnail image of a man speaking at a podium. To the right of the image is the title: 'William Branham, half-length portrait, standing at rostrum in the Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston, Texas'. Below the title are buttons for 'About This Item', 'Obtaining Copies', and 'Access to Original'. The 'About This Item' section contains the following information: Title: [William Branham, half-length portrait, standing at rostrum in the Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston, Texas]; Date Created/Published: [1954 Dec. 24]; Medium: 1 photographic print; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-114787 (b&w film copy neg.); Call Number: BIOG FILE - Branham, William <item> [P&P]; Subjects: - Branham, William,--190-. Below this is the 'Format' section with links for 'Photographic prints--1950-1970.' and 'Portrait photographs--1950-1970.'. The 'Collections' section has a link for 'Miscellaneous Items in High Demand'. The 'Bookmark This Record' section provides the URL: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95512174. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links for 'About', 'Press', 'Site Map', 'Contact', 'Accessibility', 'Legal', and 'USA.gov'.

View online at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/95512174/>

knows the--the Angel of the Covenant was Christ. And not... It isn't just to me, friend. I might be counted in with you, but that Angel of the Lord just doesn't... to me, it's to all of you. And He's here right now. He's right in the building. I feeled it right now, and know that the Angel... This same Angel that I'm speaking of here, isn't five feet from me right now. And when I meet you at the judgment bar, and this night is called into--to order, see if I haven't told you the truth. He's right in here now.

50 Now, if this was my last service that I ever have in all my life, my words are the truth. For I have not testified of myself; I have testified of Jesus Christ. And the world, the church world, who sees It, and sees Its operation, knows and believes It's the truth. And now, the scientific world is without excuse. It's scientifically proven to the scientific world.

You said, "I didn't see nothing spread about..."

No, sir. They wouldn't let the "Look," "Life," and "Times," or none of the papers have it. All of them wanted it, and they wouldn't let them have it. Said if they put it in the paper... You know a Jew. Not all of them, but some of them want money. Said they'll cut it out. They're expecting to sell It, and

It's sure sold thousands times thousands, and thousands of them, everywhere. And so I--I have nothing to do with it.

51 But only this one thing, that I'm happy tonight, to know that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who's sovereign in Word and grace, has vindicated that I've told the truth. And I've told you the truth. It's up to you to believe it; that's all. God bless you is my prayer.

Sonny... Ma'am? [Woman says something to Brother Branham--Ed.] Let's say, "Praise the Lord." [Congregation says, "Praise the Lord."--Ed.] That's ri... Oh, God bless you, sister. Then you know what is the truth, don't you, sister? That is true.

Was there anybody else was there at Houston, when the picture was taken? A man standing right here was there when the pi... another one here, another one there, there, there. Let's say, "Praise the Lord." The Bible said, "In the mouth of two or more witnesses let every word be established." Is that right?

HOW.THE.ANGEL.CAME.TO.ME_ CHICAGO.IL MONDAY_ 55-0117

82-3 And one night at Houston, Texas, when, oh, thousands times thousands of people... We was having eight hundred--eight thousand over at the what-you-call-it, over at the music hall, come back over to the great Sam Houston Coliseum.

And there in that debate that night, when a Baptist preacher said I wasn't nothing but a low-down hypocrite and an impostor, a religious impostor, and ought to be run out of the city, and he ought to be the one to do it.

Brother Bosworth said, "Brother Branham, would you let something like that happen? Call his hand."

I said, "No, sir, I do not believe in fussing. The Gospel's not made to fuss; It's made to live."

I said, "No matter how you convince him, he'd go just the same way." I said, "He... Wouldn't make him any difference. If God can't speak to his heart, how can I?"

82-6 Next day he come out, said, "It shows what they're made out of," the "Houston Chronicle." Says, "Shows what they're made out of, they're afraid to take up for what they're preaching." Old Brother Bosworth come up to me, being way in his seventies then, lovely old brother, put his arm around me, said, "Brother Branham," he said, "you mean you're not going to take that up?" I said, "No, Brother Bosworth. No, sir. I'm not going to take it up." I said, "It don't do no good." I said, "Just causes fussing when we leave the platform." I said, "I'm holding a meeting now, and I don't want to get things all tore up like that." I said, "Just let him go ahead." I said, "That's all; he's just rattling." I said, "We've had them before, and it doesn't do any good to talk to them." I said, "They'll go right away, holding theirself." I said, "If they once receive the knowledge of the truth and then they won't receive it, the Bible said they've crossed the separating line and they'll never be forgiven in this world or the world to come. They call It the Devil, and they can't help it. They're possessed with a religious spirit which is the Devil."

How many knows that's true, that a devil spirit is religious? Yes, sir, just as fundamental as they can be. And so then that didn't go very good when I said, "fundamental," but that's true. "Having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof." That's right. Signs and wonders is what vindicates God, always. And He said it would be in the last days the same thing. And notice.

83-1 Old Brother Bosworth, I... He was going to come with me, and he was kind of tired; he come back from Japan; he was going to be here. He's going on to be at Lubbock with me. And so he was... He had a little, bad cold, so he couldn't come on this one, he and his wife.

And so they--he almost thought he looked like Caleb. He stood there, he said, "Well, Brother Branham," (that very dignified look, you know), he said, "let me go do it," and said, "if you don't want to."

I said, "Oh, Brother Bosworth, I--I don't want you to do it. You'd go fussing."

He said, "There won't be one word of fussing."

Now, just before I close, listen to this. He went down there. I said, "If you won't fuss, all right."

Said, "I promise not to fuss."

83-5 Around thirty thousand people gathered for that auditorium that night. Brother Wood, setting over here, was present at the time, and was setting in that auditorium. And I... My boy said, or... My wife said, "You're not going down to that meeting?"

I said, "No. I wouldn't go down there and hear them fussing. No, sir. I wouldn't go down there and listen at it."

When nighttime come, Something said, "Go on down there."

I got a taxicab, my brother, and wife and my children, we went down. And I'd went way up in balcony thirty, way high like that, and set down.

83-8 Old Brother Bosworth walked out there just like an old diplomat, you know. He had copied off some... He had six hundred different promises of the Bible copied off there. He said, "Now, Doctor Best, if you'll come up here and will take one of these promises and disprove it by the Bible... Every one of these promises is in the Bible, pertaining to Jesus Christ healing the sick in this day. If you can take one of these promises and, by the Bible, contradict it with the Bible, I'll set down, shake your hand, say, you're right."

He said, "I'll take care of that when I get up there." He wanted the last so he could rub off on Brother Bosworth. See?

83-9 So Brother Bosworth said, "Well, Brother Best, I'll ask you one, and if you'll answer me yes or no," said, "we'll just settle the debate right now."

And he said--he said, "I'll take care of that."

He asked the moderator if he could ask him, said, "Yes."

He said, "Brother Best, was the redemptive Names of Jehovah applied to Jesus, yes or no?"

That settled it. That was all. I tell you; I just felt something just going all through me. I never thought of that myself. See? And I thought, "Oh, my, he can't answer. That ties it."

He said, "Well, Doctor Best, I'm--I'm alarmed."

He said, "I'll take care of that."

Said, "I'm alarmed that you can't answer my weakest question." He was just as cool as a cucumber; he knew where he was standing. So then he just set down there with that Scripture.

Said, "Take your thirty minutes; I'll answer after that."

84-3 And old Brother Bosworth set there and took that Scripture and tied that man in such a place till his face was so red you could have struck a match on it nearly.

He raised up from there, angry, and threw the papers across the floor, got up there and preached a good Campbellite sermon. I was a Baptist; I know what they believe. He never... He was preaching on the resurrection, "When this mortal puts on immortality, then we'll have Divine healing." Oh, my. What do we need Divine healing after we're immortal ("when this mortal puts on immortality," the resurrection of the dead)? He even doubted the miracle that Jesus did on Lazarus, said, "He died again, and that was just a temporary thing." See?

84-5 And when he got through like that, he said, "Bring forth that Divine healer and let me see him perform."

They had a little puddle then. Brother Bosworth said, "I'm surprised at you, Brother Best, not answering one question that I asked you."

And so he got real frantic then; he said, "Bring that Divine healer forth and let me see him perform."

Said, "Brother Best, do you believe in people being saved?"

He said, "Sure."

He said, "Would you want to be called a Divine Savior?"

Said, "Certainly not."

"Neither... That wouldn't make you a Divine Savior because you preached salvation of soul."

He said, "Why, certainly not."

Said, "Neither does it make Brother Branham a Divine healer by preaching Divine healing for the body. He's not no Divine healer; he just points people to Jesus Christ."

And he said, "Bring him forth; let me see him perform. Let me look at the people a year from today, and I'll tell you whether I believe It or not."

Brother Bosworth said, "Brother Best, that sounds like another case at Calvary, 'Come down off the Cross and we'll believe You.'" See?

85-2 And so, oh, man, he really blew up. He said, "Let me see him perform. Let me see him perform." The moderators made him set down. He walked over there, and there was a Pentecostal preacher standing there; he just smacked him all the way across the platform. And so they

stopped him then. So Brother Bosworth said, "Here, here! No, no." So the moderators made him set down.

Raymond Richey raised up, said, "Is this the attitude of the Southern Baptist Convention?" Said, "You Baptist ministers, did the Southern Baptist Convention send this man over here or did he come on his own?" They wouldn't answer. He said, "I asked you." He knew them, every one. They said, "He come on his own." 'Cause I know Baptists believe in Divine healing too. So then he said, "He come on his own."

85-5 So then here's what happened then. Then Brother Bosworth said, "I know Brother Branham's in the meeting, if he wants to come and dismiss the audience, very well."

So Howard said, "You set still."

I said, "I'm setting still."

And just then Something come around, begin to whirl around, and I knew It was the Angel of the Lord, said, "Rise up."

About five hundred people put their hands together like this, made an aisle, come down to the platform.

I said, "Friends, I'm not no Divine healer. I'm your brother." I said, "Brother Best, with no..." Or, "Brother Best," I said, "with no disregards to you, my brother, not at all. You have a right to your convictions; so do I." I said, "'Course, you see you couldn't prove the--your point, by Brother Bosworth. Neither could you by anybody that's well read in the Bible, that knows those things." I said, "And as far as healing people, I cannot heal them, Brother Best. But I'm here every night. If you want to see the Lord perform miracles, come on over. He does it every night."

And he said, "I'd like to see you heal somebody and let me look at them. You might hypnotize them with your hypnotism," but said, "I'd like to see it in a year from there."

I said, "Well, you'd have a right to check them, Brother Best."

85-6 He said, "Nothing but you bunch of numskull holy-rollers believe in such stuff as that. Baptists don't believe in no such nonsense."

Brother Bosworth said, "Just a moment." Said, "How many people out there, in these two weeks' meeting here, that's standing in good standing with these fine Baptist churches here in Houston, that can prove that you've been healed by Almighty God while Brother Branham's been here?" And over three hundred stood up. Said, "What about that?"

He said, "They're not Baptists." Said, "Anybody can testify anything; that still doesn't make it right." Said, "God's Word says it's right, and you can't withstand That. And the people says it's right, and you can't back that down. So what are you going to do about It?" See, like that.

86-1 I said, "Brother Best, I only tell what's truth. And if I'm truthful, God's obligated to back up the truth." I said, "If He isn't... If He won't back up the truth, then He isn't God." And I said, "I do not heal people. I was born with a--with a gift to see things, see it happen." I said, "I know I'm misunderstood, but I can do no more than fulfill the conviction of my heart." I said, "I believe that Jesus Christ raised from the dead. And if the Spirit that comes and shows visions and so forth, if

that's questioned, drop around and find out." I said, "That's all." But I said, "But for myself, I can do nothing of my own self." And I said, "If I tell the truth, God's obligated to me, to witness that It is the truth."

And about that time, Something went, "Whoosh!" Here He come, coming right down. And the American Photographer Association, the Douglas Studios in Houston, Texas, having the big camera set there (They're forbidden to take pictures.), shot the picture.

86-3 When they was there to take pictures of Mr. Best, and he--he said... Before I went down there, he said, "Wait a minute. I got six glossies coming here." He said, "Here, shoot my picture now." And he put his finger in that old saintly man's nose, like that, said, "Now, take my picture." And they did. Then he drewed his fist and put it up, said, "Now, take my picture." And they took it like that. Then he done like that, to pose for his picture. He said, "You'll see this in my magazine." like that.

Brother Bosworth stood there and never said a thing. Then they just took the picture of This.

86-5 On the road home that night (Catholic boy took it.), he said to this other boy, he said, "What do you think about that?"

He said, "I know I criticized him. That goiter that left that woman's throat, I said he hypnotized her." Said, "I could've been wrong on that."

Said, "What do you think about that picture?"

"I don't know."

They put it in the acid. Here's his picture; you can ask him if you want to. They went home, he set there and smoked a cigarette. Went in and pulled out one of Brother Bosworth; it was negative: pulled out two, three, four, five, six, and every one of them was blank. God would not permit the picture of His sainted old man standing there with that hypocrite, with his nose, or hand, fist shaking under his nose like that. He wouldn't permit it.

They pulled out the next one, and here It was. The man had a heart attack, they said, that night. And they sent this negative to Washington D.C. It was copyrighted and sent back.

87-3 And George J. Lacy, the head of the FBI fingerprint and document, and so forth, one of the greatest there is in the whole world, was brought there and kept two days on it to test camera, lights, everything else. And when we come that afternoon, he said, "Reverend Branham, I've been a critic of yours too." He said, "And I said it was psychology, somebody said they seen them Lights and things like that." And said, "You know, the old hypocrite used to say that (he meant the unbeliever) them pictures around, that halo around Christ, around the saints, he said, that was just simply psychology." But said, "Reverend Branham, the mechanical eye of this camera won't take psychology. The Light struck the lens, or struck the negative, and there It was." And he said... I submitted it over to them. He said, "Oh, mister, do you know what that's worth?" And I said, "Not to me, brother, not to me." And so he said...

'Course, it'll never come in effect while you're living, but someday, if civilization moves on and Christianity remains, there'll be something happen about this.

87-6 So friends, tonight, if this is our last meeting on this earth, you and I have set in the Presence of Almighty God. My testimony is true. Many, many things, it would take volumes of books to write it, but I want you to know.

How many in here that's actually without the picture seen the Light Itself standing around where I've been preaching? Raise your hands, all over the building, anybody that's ever seen It. See, about eight or ten hands that's setting here.

You say, "Could--could they see It and me not see It?" Yes, sir.

That--that Star that the wise men was following, passed over every observatory; no one seen It but them. They were the only one who saw It.

87-9 Elijah was standing there looking at all those chariots on fire, and everything else. And Gehazi looked around; he couldn't see them anywhere. God said, "Open his eyes that he can see." And then he seen them. See? But he was a good boy, standing there looking around, but he couldn't see it. Sure. It's given for some to see, and some not to. And that's true.

But now you that has never seen It, has never seen It, and you that did see It with your natural eye and has never seen the picture, yet the ones that sees the picture has a greater proof than you that seen It with your natural eye. 'Cause you with your natural eye, could been mistaken; it could have been an optical illusion. Is that right? But That's not an optical illusion; that's the truth, where scientific research proves that it's the truth. So the Lord Jesus has did this.

88-2 "What do you think It is then," you say, "Brother Branham?"

I believe that It is the same Pillar of Fire that led the children of Israel from Egypt to Palestine. I believe It's the same Angel of Light that come in the--in the jail and come in to Saint Peter and touched him, and went forward, and opened the door, and put him out into the light. And I believe that It's Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen. He's the same Jesus today that He was yesterday. He will be forever the same Jesus.

And while I'm talking about It, that same Light that's on that picture is on--standing not two feet from where I'm standing right now. That's right. I can't see It with my--my eyes, but I know It's standing here. I know It's settling with-inside of me right now. Oh, if you could only know the difference when the power of Almighty God catches, and how things look different.