

Under the Halo

Examining the Legacy
of
William Branham

The “Enhancement” Audiobook Supplement

Rod Bergen

CODE Publications





One Printers Way
Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Canada
www.friesenpress.com

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First Edition – 2025

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ISBN

978-1-03-831392-8 (Hardcover)

978-1-03-831391-1 (Paperback)

978-1-03-831393-5 (eBook)

1. Religion, Cults

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Chapter 12

The Seven Church Ages

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<u>Age</u>	<u>William Branham</u>		<u>Clarence Larkin</u>
	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Messenger</u>	
Ephesus	53–170 A.D. ⁴⁸¹	Paul (circa 5–c. 67 A.D.)	70–170 A.D. ⁴⁸²
Smyrna	170–312 A.D. ⁴⁸³	Irenaeus (c. 130–c. 200 A.D.)	170–312 A.D. ⁴⁸⁴
Pergamos	312–606 A.D. ⁴⁸⁵	Martin (c. 316–397 A.D.)	312–606 A.D. ⁴⁸⁶
Thyatira	606–1520 A.D. ⁴⁸⁷	Columba (521–597 A.D.)	606–1520 A.D. ⁴⁸⁸
Sardis	1520–1750 A.D. ⁴⁸⁹	Martin Luther (1483–1546 A.D.)	1520–1750 A.D. ⁴⁹⁰
Philadelphia	1750–1906 A.D. ⁴⁹¹	John Wesley (1703–1791 A.D.)	1750–1900 A.D. ⁴⁹²
Laodicea	1906–1977 A.D.	Branham (c. 1909–1965 A.D.)	1900–?

Chapter 13

The Revelation of the Seven Seals

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
“The white horse rider went out.” see? Who is he? ... He is the antichrist. ⁷²²	In other words, this White Horse Rider is the ANTICHRIST. ⁷²³
Christ takes up the Church, caught up in the air to meet Him, and does not appear again until the 19th chapter ... ⁷²⁴	[Christ] does not appear as a White Horse Rider until chapter 19. ⁷²⁵
The rider has no arrows for his bow. Did you notice? ⁷²⁶	This “Rider” has a “bow,” no arrow is mentioned ... ⁷²⁷
He had no crown to start with, but he got a crown, later ... ⁷²⁸	... he is not crowned at first, but a crown will be given to him later. ⁷²⁹
Who is this rider, this horse rider? Do you know what it is? It’s Satan’s superman. ⁷³⁰	... This “White Horse Rider” will be Satan’s “SUPERMAN.” ⁷³¹
II Thessalonians 2:7. I think that’s right. Now, I was writing this down, quivering and shaking ... that they should believe a lie: [It should be translated there, as I looked in the lexicon, “the lie.” Not “a lie”; “the lie”—same one he told Eve. ⁷³²	God will send upon its inhabitants a “strong delusion” that they will believe a LIE, or “THE LIE,” for that is what he will be. 2 Thess. 2:9–11. ⁷³³ In the Greek there is the definite article before “lie,” and it should read “THE LIE” ⁷³⁴

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>“I have somewhat against you, because ... these deeds of the Nicolaitanes.” Nico—conquer the laity.⁷³⁹</p>	<p>Here Paul’s “wolves” are called Nicolaitanes ... This is seen in the meaning of the word, which is from “Niko” to conquer, to overthrow, and “Laos” the people or laity.⁷⁴⁰</p>
<p>Notice Satan’s trinity. Same person coming, just incarnate from one to the other ... Nicolaitane, spiritual antichrist; pope, false prophet; beast, the devil himself, incarnate.⁷⁴¹</p>	<p>In the “Dragon,” the “Beast,” and the “False Prophet,” we have the “SATANIC TRINITY,” Satan’s imitation of the “Divine Trinity.”⁷⁴²</p>

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>Now, we find out he unites his power. Then when he become both state and church—the ecclesiastical.⁷⁴³</p>	<p>But soon he changed his tactics and began to exalt the Church, and through Constantine united the Church and State ...⁷⁴⁴</p>
<p>And ten horns, you know, are ten kingdoms ...⁷⁴⁵</p>	<p>This represents the “Beast,” or Empire, at the height of its power, when it will have all its “Heads,” and when the TEN KINGS, the heads of the TEN KINGDOMS into which the Empire shall be divided ...⁷⁴⁶</p>

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
They were killed for the Word of God's sake, not for the testimony of Christ. ⁷⁵⁸	These Martyrs are those who will be killed for the "Word of God." ⁷⁵⁹
Notice, they asked for revenge, see. Now, if that had been the bride, it would have been like Stephen: "Father, forgive them," you know, see. But these are Jews that's just come in, see. They asked for revenge. ⁷⁶⁰	The character of their cry is further proof that they are not the Martyrs of the Christian Church, for they would not cry to be avenged, but like Stephen would say—"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Acts 7:60. ⁷⁶¹
In the time of Daniel, now, the second half of the seventieth week ... Now remember, Messiah was to be cut off in the midst. That's the middle. Well, what's half of seven? Three and a half ... But there was determined yet to the people what? Another three and a half years. ⁷⁶²	These martyred SOULS were comforted, and told that they should rest for a "little season," about 3½ years, until their fellow servants also, and their brethren (Jews) that should be killed, as they were, should be fulfilled ... These are the Saints of the Most High that Daniel foresaw would receive the Kingdom. Dan. 7:27.
... the opening of this fifth seal in this day straightens up a doctrine right here that I might speak of, of soul sleeping ... I think this disproves that. ⁷⁶³	That there is no such thing as Soul Sleep, and that disembodied SOULS are conscious and can speak and cry, is clear from what John saw and heard, for these "SOULS" cried with a loud voice. ⁷⁶⁴

<u>Branham</u> ⁷⁶⁶	<u>Larkin</u> ⁷⁶⁷
<p>These three verses, it took place, actually on Tuesday afternoon, April 4, A.D. 30. And the first two verses took place on the afternoon of April 4 of A.D. 30, and the third verse taken place on Tuesday evening of the same day ...</p>	<p>TUESDAY AFTERNOON APRIL 4: A.D. 30—Matt 24:1–2 TUESDAY EVENING—Matt 24:3</p>
<p>... there was a threefold purpose of the Sixth Seal.⁷⁶⁸</p>	<p>THE THREE-FOLD QUESTION</p>

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>Three questions are asked. First, when shall these things be... What shall be the sign of thy coming [second question], and of the end of the world?</p>	<p>1—WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE? 2—WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING? 3—AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD (AGE)?</p>
<p>Now watch, the first seal is Revelation 6:1 and 2 ... Matthew 24 now, 4 and 5.</p>	<p>1-SEAL—FALSE CHRISTS MATT. 24:4–5 REV. 6:1–2</p>
<p>Now the second seal: Matthew 24 and 6, Revelation 6:3 and 4.</p>	<p>2-SEAL—WARS MATT. 24:6–7 REV. 6:3–4</p>
<p>Now, let's notice the Third Seal. Now, this is famine. Now, Matthew 24:7 and 8 ... Now, Revelation, in the 6th, now we're going to open the Third Seal ... It's found in Revelation 6:5 and 6.</p>	<p>3-SEAL—FAMINES MATT. 24:7 REV. 6:5–6</p>
<p>Fourth seal—pestilence and death. Notice, Matthew 24. We'll read the 8th verse, 7th and 8th ... the fourth seal; and on the 6th and 7th and 8th on the other one, on the Revelation.</p>	<p>4-SEAL—PESTILENCE AND DEATH MATT. 24:7–8 REV. 6:7–8</p>
<p>Now, the fifth seal—Matthew 24:9-13 ... Now let's get that one: Revelation 6:9 to 11 ... under the fifth seal we find here martyrdom.</p>	<p>5-SEAL—MARTYRDOMS MATT. 24:9–13 REV. 6:9–11</p>

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
Now, in the sixth seal, is the one we're coming to now. Matthew 24:29 and 30 ... Now, we are going to get also Revelation 6:12 to 17.	6-SEAL—PHYSICAL CHANGES MATT. 24:29–30 REV. 6:12–14

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
... all of Israel, the predestinated Israel, will be saved (Romans 11). ⁷⁶⁹	... there will be a “remnant according to the election of grace” (Rom. 11:4–6) ⁷⁷⁰
... also symbolized in what was called Jacob’s trouble. ⁷⁷¹	It has nothing to do with the Church. It is the time of “Jacob’s Trouble” ⁷⁷²
He sent Elijah to Ahab, and seven thousand come out. ⁷⁷³	God reserved 7000 in the days of Ahab who did not bow the knee to Baal (1. Kings 19:18) ⁷⁷⁴
Now let’s turn to Exodus 10:21–23. ⁷⁷⁵	We must not forget the “GREAT DARKNESS” that for 3 days overspread Egypt in the days before the Exodus (Ex. 10:21–23) ⁷⁷⁶
Matthew, 27th chapter of Matthew, and the 45th verse, I believe it is. ⁷⁷⁷	... nor the “DARKNESS” that settled over Jerusalem and Calvary on the day of the Crucifixion of Christ. Matt. 27:45. ⁷⁷⁸

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>And it shows exactly who does it. It's Moses and Elijah, 'cause there is their ministry re-impersonated again, it's both men.⁷⁷⁹</p>	<p>The evidence seems conclusive that the "TWO WITNESSES" will be MOSES and ELIJAH.⁷⁸⁰</p>
<p>Notice, the 13th chapter now, of Isaiah ... Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.⁷⁸¹</p>	<p>In Isa. 13:9–10, we read—"Behold the 'DAY OF THE LORD' cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."⁷⁸²</p>
<p>The whole world's in its birth pains. The world is trying ... she's travailing ... to bring forth a new world for the millennium ...⁷⁸³</p>	<p>These physical convulsions will be the earth's "TRAVAIL PAINS" as she labors to bring forth the NEW CREATION of the Millennial Age.⁷⁸⁴</p>

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>... we notice between the 6th and 7th there is an interval, an interval between, the 6th and 7th chapter of the book of Revelation ...⁷⁹⁴</p>	<p>The Interval Between the Sixth and Seventh Seals⁷⁹⁵</p>
<p>Now, a half hour might not be long if you're having a good time. But in the suspense of between death and life, it seemed like a Millennium.⁷⁹⁶</p>	<p>Now a "half an hour" is not long when engaged in some pleasant employment, but it causes a nerve breaking tension when we do not know what is going to happen, and when a life is at stake a minute, or even a few seconds, seem to be hours. The suspense of the half hour of SILENCE in Heaven was intense.⁷⁹⁷</p>
<p>It's the end of the vials, and even ends the ushering-in of the Millennium. That's on the Seventh Seal.⁷⁹⁸</p>	<p>We must not forget that the "SEVENTH SEAL" ... extends down to the ushering in of the Millennium.⁷⁹⁹</p>
<p>It's just like firing a rocket into the air. And that rocket explodes here and it goes up, and then explodes again. It puts out five stars. One of those stars explodes and blows out five stars from it. And then one of them stars explodes and blows out <u>five stars from it</u>, see.⁸⁰⁰</p>	<p>To illustrate, a rocket fired into the air may burst into "seven stars," and one of these stars into "seven other stars," and one of the second group of stars into a third group of "seven stars."⁸⁰¹</p>

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>And the four and twenty elders that stood before God ... they quit playing their harps ... The holy Cherubims and Seraphims ... hushed up. Angels quit singing! ... All the host of Heaven was silent for this half hour ... They were awed by it ...⁸⁰²</p>	<p>This “SILENCE” was something remarkable. The Four and Twenty Elders ceased their harp-playing; the angels hushed their voices, and the Cherubim and Seraphim and all the host of Heaven were silent, and so great was the silence that all Heaven was awed by it ...⁸⁰³</p>

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<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
<p>Therefore, the church misses the Tribulation. I know that’s contrary to pretty near every teacher I ever talked to.⁸⁰⁴</p>	<p>... therefore the Church is not to pass through the Tribulation.⁸⁰⁵</p>
<p>Now, the forfeited title deed is now in the hands of the original owner, Almighty God—the title deed to the earth, and to eternal life. When Adam forfeited it ...⁸⁰⁶</p>	<p>The forfeited Title Deed is now in God’s hands and is awaiting redemption. Its redemption means the legal repossession of all that Adam lost by the Fall.⁸⁰⁷</p>
<p>So, here come the Lamb, now. His intercessory days is over, the mediatorial days.⁸⁰⁸</p>	<p>When the Lamb leaves the Throne to take the Book, His Mediatorial Work ceases ...⁸⁰⁹</p>

<u>Branham</u>	<u>Larkin</u>
The law of God required a kinsman redeemer ... find it in Leviticus 25. ⁸¹⁰	Adam was impotent to redeem the lost possession, but the law provides (Lev. 25:23–34) that a kinsman may redeem a lost possession. ⁸¹¹
The Book of Ruth gives a beautiful picture of this, how Boaz ... ⁸¹²	This is beautifully illustrated in the story of Boaz and Ruth. ⁸¹³
... in the Book of Ruth ... you'll find out such a person was called the "goel," g-o-e-l. ⁸¹⁴	The kinsman who redeemed the property was called the "Goel" or REDEEMER. ⁸¹⁵

FOOTNOTES

Many of the commentaries and similar books referenced herein have footnotes that were automatically generated through Logos Bible software and use their version of the Chicago style of footnoting. Some major exceptions to the Chicago style are listed below. Our main aim has been to ensure that someone looking for the referenced information can find it, rather than religiously following the Chicago style.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

Footnotes for biblical quotations are simply the passage reference followed by the abbreviation of the version in brackets.

All biblical quotations are from the 1900 authorized edition of King James Version of the Holy Bible (KJV), unless otherwise noted.

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As noted on the copyright page, the following abbreviations are used for other Bible translations:

ESV – English Standard Version

GW – GOD’S WORD

HCSB – Holman Christian Standard Bible

MSG – The Message

NASB – New American Standard Bible

NIV – New International Version

NLT – New Living Translation

Abbreviations used for the books of the Bible are: Gn, Ex, Lv, Nu, Dt, Jos, Jdg, Ru, 1, 2 Sm, 1, 2 Ki, 1, 2 Ch, Ezr, Ne, Est, Jb, Ps(s), Pr, Ec, Ct, Is, Je, La, Ezk, Dn, Ho., Joel, Am, Ob, Jon, Mi, Na, Hab, Zp, Hg, Zc, Mal, Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn, Acts, Rom, 1, 2 Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, Col, 1, 2 Thes, 1, 2 Tm, Ti, Phm, Heb, Jas, 1, 2 Pt, 1, 2, 3 Jn, Jude, Rv.

WORKS OF WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

The sermons of William Marrion Branham (WMB) are available in a number of formats and numerous sources on the internet. In 1969, David Mamalis made a declaration to the US Copyright Office that all of WMB’s sermons were in the public domain. This declaration has never been challenged.

All quotes of William Branham (including those from the *CAB*) are taken from the OpenMessageView (OMV) program available at <https://www.lovedivinefellowship.com/software/> and are used in accordance with the 3-Clause BSD License.ⁱⁱ Neither Love Divine Fellowship nor any of the contributors to the OMV program should be construed as endorsing or promoting this book.

The indexing system (sermon number) used in the OMV to reference William Branham’s sermons is:

YY-MMDDT - where:

YY = Year (47 - 65)

MM = Month (01 - 12)

DD = Day of the Month (01 - 31)

T = Time – Afternoon (A), Breakfast (B), Morning (M), Evening (E)

For footnoting purposes, we have listed the sermon number, followed by the title of the sermon and the paragraph number.

Branham's sermon series are referred to as follows:

- ***Church Age Series***—the series of sermons on the Seven Churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 which were preached by William Branham from December 4 to 11, 1960.
- ***Seals Series***—the series of sermons on the Seven Seals of Revelation 6 preached by William Branham from March 17 to 24, 1963.

William Branham only authored one book, *An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages*, edited by Lee Vayle, which is referred to in this book and in footnotes as the *Church Age Book* or the *CAB*. The *CAB* was in the process of being printed when William Branham died in 1965 and was issued posthumously.

Where we wished to add emphasis, portions of quotes have been italicized. Capitalized letters were sometimes added directly to William Branham's sermons by the editors.

WEBSITES

Information obtained from websites are referenced by the URL of the website and the date the referenced information was retrieved.

Glossary

BelieveTheSign (BTS) – The general editor of this book is one of the editors of the BelieveTheSign website - <https://believetheesign.com>. References to this website are also referred to as BTS.

Branham Tabernacle – a church in Jeffersonville, Indiana, founded by William Branham during the 1930s. Prior to the purchase of the church on November 9, 1937, the church was known as the Pentecostal Tabernacle.

Brother – Followers of the Message refer to each other as “brother” and “sister.” William Branham is always referred to by Message followers as “Brother Branham” (Bro. Branham in written form) and rarely by his first name.

Campaign – The healing services conducted by Branham, Oral Roberts, and others in the healing revival were referred to as “healing campaigns.” While it is not clear why the term “campaign” was used, it may have been to differentiate the meetings from evangelistic “crusades” held by Billy Graham and others. Healing campaigns were not primarily evangelistic in nature.

Jesus People – an Evangelical youth movement in the United States that was parallel but distinct from the hippie counterculture during the late 1960s and early 1970s.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Message – Followers of William Branham refer to themselves as being in the Message or the Message of the Hour. It’s also how they refer to themselves generally as a movement. If you are “in the Message” then you consider yourself a true follower of William Branham and a true follower of God.

One in a million – This is related to the concept of the “seed gene.” Just as only one of millions of sperm fertilizes an egg, so relatively few can accept the Message. Message followers use this rationale to explain why their numbers are so few.^{iv}

One word off – William Branham said, “Now, we must believe It. One Word off of It, and we lose our fellowship, go off into—to death, eternal separation from God, just as Adam and Eve did. We must believe God’s Truth.”^v Message preachers use this phrase to create fear. If a message follower believes the message but is just “one word off,” they won’t make the Rapture.

The “Park” or the “Trailer Park” – the group of Message followers who lived together at the Pine Lawn Trailer Park in Prescott, Arizona, from 1962 to 1975 (see Chapter 3).

Seed Gene – how Message preachers often refer to Message followers, who are the only predestinated children of God. While William Branham never used this exact term, he did teach that only those that have God’s seed, God’s gene, within them can be true believers (followers of the Message).^{vi}

Tape Boys – William Branham referred to those who taped his services as “tape boys.” VoGR uses the term for those who spread the Message.^{vii} The two most well-known “tape boys” were Leo Mercier and Gene

Goad,^{viii} who were the leaders of the infamous Trailer Park and physically and sexually abused children at the Park.

Returned Ministry (or Return Ministry) – a subset of the Message that believes that William Branham will return prior to the Rapture to fulfill the Tent Vision and other visions that weren’t fulfilled during his lifetime.

“Say only what is on those tapes” – William Branham said, “Don’t you add one thing. Don’t put your own ideas in it. You just say what is said on those tapes. You just do exactly what the Lord God has commanded to do. Don’t add to it.”^{ix} This prevents William Branham’s followers from disagreeing with him, effectively putting his words above those of scripture (see Chapter 17).

Voice of God Recordings, Inc. (VoGR) – VoGR is a U.S. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (NPO) with headquarters in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Its Form 990 for 2021 showed assets of \$44.5 million and revenues of \$23.1 million. The directors of VoGR in 2021 were William Branham’s two sons, Joseph M. Branham and William P (Billy Paul) Branham Sr. as well as Paul Brewer. In 2011, VoGR reported assets of almost \$110 million. A majority of these assets were subsequently transferred to Jehovah-Jireh Foundation, Inc. (JJF), a US NPO with the same directors as VoGR with William P. Branham Jr. added. JJF appears to have been funding VoGR and reported assets of \$36.5 million in 2021. VoGR reported Joseph Branham as receiving compensation of \$131,440 in 2021 with JJF also reporting having paid him \$130,600 for a combined earning of \$262,040. It is unknown whether Joseph Branham also received compensation from WBEA or any other organization.

William Branham Evangelistic Association (WBEA) – WBEA was incorporated as a church in 1966 and is therefore exempt from filing an annual return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). As a result, the names of those people on its payroll and the amount of their compensation are unknown.

i <https://ebible.org/engwmb/>.

ii <https://opensource.org/license/bsd-3-clause/>.

iii Larry Eskridge, “Jesus People,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity* (Grand Rapids, MI; Leiden, Netherlands: Wm. B. Eerdmans; Brill, 1999–2003), 28.

iv 65-1125, *The Invisible Union of the Bride of Christ*, para. 100.

v 62-0211, *Oneness*, para. 26.

vi 65-1204, *The Rapture*, para. 85.

vii “Tape Boys,” Voice of God Recordings, accessed April 6, 2024, https://branham.org/en/articles/8242017_TapeBoys.

viii 59-1128, *Door to the Heart*, para. 7.

ix 65-0718M, *Trying to Do God a Service without Being the Will of God*, para. 94.