

Revelation, Chapter Five #1

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William Marrion Branham

"... in the days of the voice ..." Rev. 10:7

Introduction

The remarkable ministry of William Branham was the response of the Holy Spirit to the prophecies of the Scriptures in Malachi 4:5,6, Luke 17:30, and Revelations 10:7, and many other Bible prophecies. This worldwide ministry has been a continuation of the working of God by His Spirit at this End time. It is in the Scriptures that it is spoken that it would be necessary for a ministry to arise to prepare a people for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

We pray that the printed Word will become written in your heart as you prayerfully read this message.

While every effort has been made to provide an accurate unabridged transcription and/or translation, the English audio files are the best representation of the sermons spoken by William Branham.

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Revelation, Chapter Five #1

1 Thank you very much, Brother Neville. The Lord bless you, my brother.

Good morning, friends. It's happy this morning, privilege, or a grand privilege I should say, to be back here at the Tabernacle again and to have this time set aside for our morning worship and fellowship around the Word of the Lord. I believe it was said one time, "I was happy when they said unto us, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" To be with Brother Neville again, my good and precious friend....

2 And I guess it's a little cool, or a little warm back there. We have, I think, some fans that you can use with your hands this way. We got fans if you've got the motor, so just to keep it moving. Or, we did have a bunch around here, I think they still have them. I see some using song books or whatmore. One thing we're trying to have services for, is to dodge these places that are in the future that's hot. So that's why we're here this morning, to bypass those places. And only one thing that can do that—that's the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ does that.

3 And I was very happy to hear the good report of the church, that how it is progressing, going on with the Lord, and how God is dealing with you in spiritual gifts. And I'm certainly very thankful to God for your sincere hearts that He can deal with, and trusting that He'll keep you right in the middle of that straight and narrow way, that you will not move right or left from it.

4 And I want to thank Brother Colvin and his daughter, I believe it was, that was up here a few moments ago that sang that song, "There's No Tears In Heaven." That's beautiful. I certainly appreciate that.

And as Brother Neville said about he and I years ago, I can say that about Brother Colvin. We've knowed one another for years. And to hear him sing those old gospel songs and bringing his children up in the way of the Lord, it's very elating to my heart. Makes me rejoice to know that God still has people who love Him and care for Him. And we're grateful for that.

5 Since I've come back, I hear that many has been baptized into the faith, and we're so happy for that. I see my good friend, Brother Elmer Gabehart back there. I understand that he was just baptized into the faith, and I'm certainly grateful for that. That makes all of our old hunting crew down in Kentucky just about ready to take the limit now alone, doesn't it?

I remember (and I know Rodney is listening to me in the back room, if he's back there yet, and Charlie is sitting before me) when we used to go down there. The boys all liked to ... well, if squirrels, they'd take a few

extra if they could find them. But I got to talking to them that that wasn't right. So now the whole group's just about converted, so I guess we'll just have to move over into the next county and get them straightened out over there. That'll be fine.

6 So I sometimes look down, as every minister, down the pathway that you have walked, and wonder about the things, that if you have sowed the seed.

Many of you is well acquainted with Johnny Appleseed of America. Why, there was also a man in Sweden that was considered something like that. He sowed flowers, and they say that's why they have so many pretty flowers in Sweden now, because that they sowed the flower seeds, everywhere he could find a piece of ground that seeds would grow in. He loved flowers, so he just strowed the seeds around. He's gone on, but his flowers still live.

And partings leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
While sailing over life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
In seeing, shall take heart again.

That's what we all like to see, that something that we have did that will cause others to benefit by what we have done.

7 A few days ago I was sitting talking to my loyal little friend here in the city, a medical doctor, Sam Adair. And he said, "How are you doing, Bill?"

And I said, "Oh, pretty fair, I suppose, Doc." I said, "Yourself?"

And he said, "Oh, a lot of patients." Said, "I had fifteen examinations this afternoon."

I said, "Well, that's good as long as it's just examinations and finding nothing wrong." I said, "You know, the..." We got talking about back when we were boys. And I said, "Well, Doc, I don't know just how long I'm going to be around. We're both in our fifties."

And he said, "That's true, Bill."

I said, "But all these years, about thirty-one years of ministry now, I have kept my heart prepared for that hour when He comes. So it doesn't matter when He comes."

So he said, "That is true."

congregation now. May the great God of heaven just so anoint that He'll bless everyone in divine presence, that we might go away from here this morning saying, "Did not our hearts burn within us?" Grant it, Lord.

79 Now, I'm weak and tired, my voice is gone, and I just pray, God, for my own strength. Will You help me? Will You strengthen me? Patch that little wound down there, Lord. Will You please? Let the holy oil of God move in, and in every other wound, Lord, and everywhere and everybody. We want to live, Lord, to your honor and your glory. Grant it. And heal all the sick and the afflicted. And get glory to Thyself, Lord, because we realize that it won't be long till we won't have these meetings anymore. They'll be gone, they'll be in the past.

Now, Father, bless, we ask all together through Jesus Christ's name.

And then, Father, we would also ask You to remember those who are going to be baptized this morning in the name of the Lord Jesus, that You'll give to them the baptism of the Holy Ghost, great glory and honor. Grant it, Father. We commit it all to You now.

And, Father, with all of that, I throw myself in. Don't forget me, Lord, just help me now. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

I said, "The greatest thrill I have is living for others."

8 And he said, "That's what makes life real, is when you ... not what you can do or accomplish for yourself, but what you can do for others."

See, that's when you're really living. And if there happens to be someone among us who has never did that—tried to live for somebody else—give that a try. And just see how much more life holds for you when you will not live for what you can get yourself out of life, but what you can give someone else in life. And you'll find that it's more blessed than riches or anything that can be thought of, is what you can do for someone else to make life's burdens.... Which, life in itself is a burden. And it will make it a little lighter for someone else. You just don't know the joy unless you've tried it once, to do something for someone else.

9 Then that brings me to thinking of thirty-one years (will be soon) of ministry for the Lord. And I guess every man thinks of sometime when he has to come to his last service and come to his last hour, and look back down the path and see what has been accomplished, see what's went on, have you did anything. And as I have just said, it's what you do for others that counts.

I often wonder what would be when I got to the end of my road, which we don't know what time that will be, none of us. So I was thinking about looking back down along the trail where I've come through life, and seeing the different hills, and briar patches, and rocks, and hard places and smooth runnings, and what I did in those kind of times. It'll all show up one of these days at the hour of my going away. And it'll do that on each one of us. We will all be sure of that, that it'll show up to each one when that time comes.

10 And that brings me, or leads me, to say something that I would rather run than say. It leads me to say something that I.... It grinds my heart to the bottom to say it, but what I say I am forced to say, realizing that this is being taped and the world will hear it, but I have left the ministry, for a cause that I'm sorry that I have to leave for. And perhaps many of you have heard it, closing my office, and so forth, and leaving the field.

I don't know where our Lord will lead me to, and that I have no control of, or whatever He will have for me to do. But I am thinking at the end of the road, where I must come. And down along life's journeys I have made so many mistakes that I am very sorry from my heart of, because of, I guess, being human and in weakness and so forth, causes a person to do things or say things that ... and even act that they would not want to act otherwise. But being the weakness of a human being, why, we have those times.

11 But if there's anything that has been in my heart to do, was to hear those words of our Lord Jesus at the end of this journey, to say, "It was well done, my good and faithful servant." And many times I have said I'd like to have been standing there when He said, "Come unto me"; but I did desire to hear it say, "Well done." I did not hear the voice, in the original, say, "Come unto me," back in the times of the writing of the Bible; but I do desire to hear it say, "Well done."

And if anything I always wanted to be, and desires of my heart to be, was a true servant to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour. I want my testimony to be clean, clear-cut, that I've stood ... in all my mistakes I yet loved Him with all my heart. And I do that this morning with all my heart.

And, because of that, it forces me to say I am leaving the ministry — is because that there is something arose up amongst the people that's caused me to do it. That is, that I have been taken from my bracket of "a minister" or "a brother" and been called Jesus Christ, and so call ... and that would brand me as an antichrist. And I'll meet God as a quitter before I would meet Him as an antichrist to take away from Him.

12 I heard of it a few years ago and I thought it was a joke. And I met a couple brethren (which I don't see neither one of them in the meeting this morning), two or three of them, one time in a fishing trip, and they approached me by the subject of saying, "Brother Branham, aren't you the anointed Messiah, the Christ?"

And I put my arms around the neck of both brethren, or all of them, and I said, "Brethren, as much as I have tried to be a true servant of Christ, I would not that you would say such a thing as that. And if it would ever be said of me, then I will leave the field with a clear conscience; and you who do that will be responsible for every soul that I would have saved during that time, see—for taking me from the field." And I thought that ended it.

13 And I heard it a few more times. But it wasn't so. And the other day, in Canada, a brother showed me a little ticket of a thing he was packing in his pocket, said, "William Branham is our Lord," baptizing in the name of William Branham. And a little ... a precious.... If it had been an enemy, if it had been my enemy I would have knowed it was a joke. But a precious, darling brother come up to confess his sins and his wrongs, and say his faith in me as being Jesus Christ.

And I have got letters at home, and calls from Chicago and different places, asking me if I believe that dogma.

And I got all kinds of letters that's come in the last few days, and calls from different places, so, saying that I was Christ. Brethren, that is a

jingling praises to Thee all along the road.

We thank Thee for this visitation this morning of the Holy Spirit in the Word, as it comes in and makes the Word so real to us. Forgive us of our shortcomings and all that we have did or said that was wrong, forgive us for it. Help us to be better Christians, Father God. We pray that your mercies will rest upon us.

I ask, Lord, if it be your will, that we can return again pretty soon and finish these chapters here and take these seven seals. We're looking forward to that time, Lord, that when You'll let us do that. And, Father, right here in our own little church we pray that You'll grant it to us, that we might understand these great things of God. Not because that we deserve it, Lord, but our hungry hearts are believing for it. We pray that You'll grant it.

77 We pray for our Brother Neville, Lord, our faithful God-sent pastor. We pray for him that You'll help him and bless him, he and his sweet little wife, beautiful little thing, and his little children.

We pray for all the trustees and the deacons and everybody that comes to this church. Not only for ours, but for others and all that calls upon your name. I pray for my friends from across the country, just a breath's notice and here they are. Father, I just thank You for this.

I pray that You'll hasten the day that when Jesus shall come and we shall all be gathered together, where there'll be no more day nor night, and no more time, but it'll blend into eternity to where we can all be together forever. Grant it, Lord.

If there be some here this morning, Lord, who doesn't know You as their Saviour, may they want to get acquainted with this Lamb who holds the seven-sealed mystery book in his hand. God, may we be acquainted with Him so in the future when we see those seals broke open, then we can see what God is speaking to us about. We ask it for God's glory through the name of his Son, Jesus Christ.

78 And while we have our heads bowed:

Would there be someone say, "Remember me, Brother Branham, as you pray, that I'd like to be remembered in prayer"? God bless you. God bless you. And God bless you, and you, and you. Yes. God be good to you. Yes. Maybe there's two dozen hands, or more, up.

O Lord, You see their hands, You know their desire, you know what's in their heart. I don't. I pray that You'll reveal to them, Lord, Your goodness and Your mercy. Give them pardon for whatever it is. If it's sickness, Lord, heal their bodies and make them well. Do, Father, while the anointing of the Holy Spirit is upon the meeting, upon the

Elmer? See, that....

72 Now, if God sat upon a throne.... And said, "Why, here's God, He lives down a certain place, we'll go down there." And say, "Dear sir, God, would you do it?"

"Yes, I'll do it." And it'd be done, see. Well, of course, that's God, see. My, we see that. So there wouldn't be no ... faith would be made void. Faith's no good when you're positive.

73 What if every person in this world was a Christian? What if everybody was a Spirit-filled Christian? Why, we wouldn't need any faith no more, wouldn't need any faith at all. And faith is the very thing that we're saved by, is faith. And that's the reason there has to be some disagree with it, so that we can exercise faith. Do you understand it now? You've got to have the other side, see. You've got to have a bad woman to make a real one stand out right, see. There's got to be a lie to make the truth positive and make it shine good. If everything was truth, it would just be so common, see. See? But, you see, it's something royal, it's something real, when truth and faith and so forth.... Now, there we are.

74 Now, we've got to have these pro and cons. That's the way it goes. You've got to have good days to make you enjoy ... or bad days to make you enjoy the good. You have to have a little sickness to make you enjoy good health, see. You have to have your valleys to make you enjoy the mountain tops. And so then some of these days it'll all be mountain top, it'll all be health, it'll all be God, it'll all be joy, it'll be unending joy. But until that time, see, we got to have this pro and con.

Now, everybody understands that, say "Amen."

75 This girl was telling that she was trying to find God everywhere she went. She'd go to this church and that church, and whatevermore, but she couldn't find it. Once she found going down the road, there was a little, old man going down the road, a little fellow, and he had a whole big cathedral on his back. He was walking down the road. And she said, "Oh, good man!" She said, "My, that's awful nice of you," said, "but you got the whole thing on your back." She said, "It'll crush you."

He said, "No, it won't crush Me," said, "for I am the rock that it's built on." That's Him.

Let's pray:

76 O Rock of Ages, I'm so glad to be just riding in the cathedral, knowing that we're resting upon the rock. Oh, He said, "It's no more than paper." And as the rock began to move on swiftly with it, the beautiful bells begin to chime on the inside. O Rock of Ages, hide us in thy mercy. Carry us down the road and stream of life that our hearts will be full of joy and

horrible, disgraceful, ungodly lie of the devil! See? See, I am your brother. Now, that would run any person from the field. That would make anyone that loves Christ run from the very thing.

14 I went to the Lord, here not long ago when I first heard it, about a year ago. And then I went to the Lord, and He referred to me to the scripture that when John came forth a-preaching, that they hadn't had a prophet on the earth for so many years, until it would ... they was all amazed in their hearts, thinking maybe John was the Messiah. So then, John, they went and asked him, and he said that he was not. You read that in Luke the third chapter, the fifteenth verse. And so then ... but that kind of quietened down, so I let it go like that.

But then when it come to this, then I knowed that something must be done. And I say this, that the visions and the angel of the Lord that appeared at the river, if this is to be my last message, or last thing to the church, to the world, those things are truth, as far as the angel of the Lord.

And I stood still if people called me a prophet many times, because a prophet in the English testament is just a preacher, a prophesier, a forth-teller of the Word, and so forth. I'd stand for that because you could just kind of push that down; but when it comes to be calling "Anointed Christ," or something, that was too much for me. So I just couldn't stand that.

15 And so then about ... I come.... After leaving the meeting at Canada, I found out that way up in the Eskimos, or the Indians up there, it had got among them.

And so it just tore me all up. And the hunting trip that I had planned so long, I could not take it. I was afraid of a hunting accident, if you understand what I mean. I got so shaky, worse than I am standing here now. And I just couldn't stand it any longer, to think that thirty-one years of ministry went down the devil's gutter pipe, into the.... When I'm gone, what will they say? "There he is, that's exactly what it was." And all the influence that I had upon the people, then you see where it'd be—I'd be an antichrist. And I just couldn't stand it!

I thought, "I'd rather die here in the woods, like I fell on my gun or something, than...." And I seen I was.... Then I thought about my little Joseph, and so forth, that had to be raised. And I was no condition to hunt, so I just left the woods and come home.

And I've been four ... about eight or ten days, in such a fix I thought I was losing my mind. And I just asked everybody to stay away from me and let me alone because I'm in such a fix, and nervous and upset, and all tore to pieces.

16 And I wondered. If it would have been some enemy of mine, it would've been all right, but I would just have laughed at it and went on. But when it come to be precious brothers, precious sisters, then that's what hurt me. And I said, "Lord, the thing's too great for me. I'll just have to walk out and leave it in Your hands. I don't know nothing else to do."

A few nights ago, to make it sure, I had a visitation from the Lord. And I seen a precious one a-baiting a serpent, which was yellow and black (and telling me right along), and the thing struck me on the leg. But the blood was so rich it didn't take effect on me. And I looked down, and there's where I had been bit before. And I turned quickly with a gun and shot the thing, and it hit it right in the middle of the thing.

And a brother said ... I turned with my gun to shoot its head off, and he said, "Don't do that, just pick up the stick laying there by you." When I turned my back to pick up the stick, it wiggled into some water, just a small puddle of water.

I said, "Well, it can't hurt very much longer now because I believe the brother realizes, the brethren, what would happen." I said, "It's mortally wounded, so it'll die."

17 And I asked many of my members of my church here in this Tabernacle with Brother Neville and I, that's come approaching me with that same question. Brothers, sisters, haven't I tried to be a true servant of Christ before you? Have not I tried to be your brother?

Now, wherever it is, it's a spirit on precious people. Many people has asked me that. But it's a spirit, but I hope that today that it receives a deadly wound and will die out quickly so I can return back to the ministry. Until then, I'll ask you each one, pray for me. I don't know what I'll do. My place ... up for sale. I just can't stand it, I stay around I'll go completely stark mad. And I ask you to pray for me.

And, remember, if you've ever believed me, if you've ever believed me to be a servant of Christ, remember, that is an error! It's falsely! Thus saith the Lord! It is wrong! Have nothing to do with it! I am your brother. Let us bow our heads.

18 Heavenly Father, my flesh is trembling, my hands are squeezing together, my toes are drawed up in my shoes. O God, be merciful. What have I ever done, Lord, to deserve this? I pray that You'll be so merciful to me, Lord, and to all. And up there in them precious, darling people, may they see their error and what they have did, Lord, to break the heart of their brother, and not only the brother, but our Saviour, our heavenly Father. I pray that You'll forgive us of our errors, Lord. Let the holy blood of Christ now draw our beings together, Lord, and blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love and fellowship.

of redemption blessing. Meek shall inherit the earth. Men and women shall be back sons and daughters of God. And the complete millennium swing will begin. What a beautiful thing!

69 And the strong angel with a loud voice, proclaiming, "Who is worthy? Who is able to do this?"

And then the elder said, "Don't weep, for the Lion of the tribe of Judah, He is worthy and He has overcome."

"And He took the book and opened the book and loosed the seals thereof." He never told what happened to them. When we hit them seven seals being opened right down through the Bible, watch what took place. Right in this seven-sealed book that we're in now, holds the whole mystery of all the redemption blessings of God. Remember, He is the Lamb. He's the only one that redeemed it. And, remember, it's sealed on the backside of the book, not written within. It's sealed on the backside, and it's not written within. And He was the only one was able to even open the book, or to reveal the book, or to reveal the seals—the only one that could do it.

70 So this is one thing.... They might squabble about this in here, about what it is, but He's the one that divinely interprets it. But on the backside here, there's no one can do it. It belongs to Him and Him alone, and He's the one that can reveal those seven mysteries out. And watch there, every bit of it is on redemption, how the church was redeemed and what will be the redeeming.

Oh, let us just love Him with all of our hearts, do all that we can.

71 A certain writer was writing a story (just before I close and turn the service back to Brother Neville). Do you enjoy Revelation? Oh, I just love it. We just got about three verses of it this morning, but we'll pick it up again. Notice, it was just....

A writer was writing a book about a young girl that was trying to find God.

So many times that we hunt for God and look for God, and if God was just everywhere, and you had a great big.... Well, if He had a great big throne sitting up here somewhere, everybody would believe in God then. If God sat upon a big throne here somewhere; say, "He sits in this certain city and here He is. This is God and you go to Him. He could just [Brother Branham snaps his fingers.] turn it like that," why, everybody would believe Him. Then faith would be void. We wouldn't have to have any faith at all then, see. That wouldn't be it. That will be in the millennium, but now He's calling and trying to find out those who.... It looks mysterious and dark, and you don't know how to do it. But by faith we believe it! We believe it. That's the reason it's did! Do you understand that, Brother

loose the seven seals thereof. [He's the one, He's that one we're looking at.]

65 Notice how Ruth and Naomi, Boaz, is just a perfect picture. How Naomi in the time of famine left the church, left the country, went over into the Moabite land to dwell there and sojourn in there. She lost all she had. And when she went away, her husband, Elimelech, died while they was over there, so that left his inheritance to fall to anyone. Then when she comes back, she brings back the beautiful young Moabite widow with her. And when Boaz saw this widow, a type of Christ, he fell for her. And he loved her. So that he had to redeem ... the only way he could ever get her to be wife was to redeem what his brother, Elimelech, had lost.

66 And so then he asked his other brother if he would redeem it, one closer than he, and he couldn't do it. So he went down to make a perfect example of the laws of God. He went to the gates and he kicked off his shoe, and said, "Let it be known this day that I have redeemed all that Naomi had. All that she has, all that Elimelech, my brother, lost, I am the next kinsman now, and I'm the one that can redeem it, so I have come to claim it. If there's any man here who can show a just cause why, or anybody closer than me, let it be known." And everybody kept their mouth shut. So he kicked off his shoe and threw it for a testimony, "I have redeemed all that our brother, Elimelech, had." Why? He was a kinsman. He was a kinfolks redeemer. Oh, how beautiful it is! It's such a beautiful story.

And then, all this time, Ruth was resting and waiting to find out how it would come out. Then he comes back. No one could give a testimony against it. He come back and took Naomi ... and took Ruth, the beautiful Moabite girl, and they were married and lived on this possession. What a beautiful story!

67 There's three stages of Ruth. Ruth: Ruth deciding—she was deciding whether she would make the decision or not, to go back into the homeland (just like the church); Ruth serving, when she went out to glean; Ruth resting—that's what Ruth is doing now (the church); Now Ruth rewarded. Now that's what ... the next thing happens is the reward of the church.

68 Now, we don't have time, because you got a baptismal service and it's quarter after eleven now. But maybe we'll pick this up next Sunday or some other Sunday in the future, the Lord willing. And I'd like to take this down here, to show these seven horns and seven eyes, and exactly those seven seals, seven ministries, seven angels of the church, seven stars, sev.... Oh, it's so....

And right here ties the whole thing together. Yes, sir. Had to be worthy, so Jesus is worthy. At his return we will fully enjoy all the fullness

God, may the enemy that approached our brothers and our sisters, may it receive the deadly wound, that it cannot exist any longer, and may it just die away, Lord. When you do that, Father, I'll return back to the field again. But until then, Lord, I am your heartbroken servant, waiting, waiting. It's beyond anything I could do. With tears and with crying and with persuading I tried, Lord, hard (You know my heart), to stop it before it got that far, but it went beyond anything I could do. So, Father, I commit it into your hands from this pulpit to where I've preached for all these years. I commit it into your hands.

Now, You see to it, Father, in your own divine way. And when it's all finished and everything is over, then thy servant shall return. Until then I'll be waiting to hear from You, Lord.

Bless us now and give us a great service today; as we're here not altogether for this, but just to make it clear, publicly, before the world, that they might know, Father, that I love You and believe You and have stood for You, and want to.... If I have to go, let me go, Lord, with a clean heart and a real record that I believed You and trusted You. Grant it. And I'll praise Thee, and we'll give Thee glory through all ages that is to come, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

19 Now, over in the Scriptures, let us turn in the Bible to the.... I thought this morning it would be a good thing, if Brother Neville don't mind, just to continue on for a few minutes in....

Now don't let me hear it one more time mentioned among any of you. Just pray and keep it out, shut it off, see. I don't.... I'm fifty-two years old, but I think, maybe, if God spares me, I got a little life left, and I want to spend every ounce of my time for Christ. So, remember, I'm leaving because I'm driven to do it.

20 Now in the book of the Revelation, in the fourth chapter where we left off the other day when we were in the study, Revelation, the fourth chapter, I believe, at the last part of the verse, or the chapter. How many likes Revelation? Wonderful! Now, I believe we quit at the fifth chapter, didn't we? We left off at the fourth chapter, the four living creatures. Now, let's approach the Word now, forgetting those things that are in the past.

21 Father God, You help us now, as we are nervous, but we approach the Word. Forgetting that which is in the past, we press now to the mark of the high calling, high calling of the ministry to be a servant to Christ. Give us the Word this morning and feed our hungry souls, for we're longing, Lord, and waiting for that precious anointing of the Holy Spirit. Come among us, Lord, forgiving our sins and trespasses and letting us be your servants. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

22 Now, we took the church ages, the last seven church ages. And then, now, I believe some of them are trying to ... are going to write this up, the church ages. Then we come into the fourth chapter of the book of the Revelation. What is this? "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." The revelation, called in the Latin, the apocalypse, which means "to be revealed, taking the cover off of, to show, to expose, to bring out," the revelation of Jesus Christ which was, is, and shall come, the root and offspring of David.

23 Now in the fourth chapter, we find out that John was caught up into heaven after he seen the church ages. (Just giving a little back-ground now, and then we'll....)

Maybe it'd be best to read a few verses out of the fifth chapter, and then we'll start right in with the background.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat upon the throne a book written within and ... the backside, sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

And I wept ... because no man was found worthy to open and ... read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and ... the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

That's the first seven verses.

24 Now in the third chapter of Revelation we find the ending up of the church age, which ended with the Laodicean, the lukewarm church age. Then we find out that immediately after that, John was caught up in the Spirit, up into the heavens. And he saw things that was, and was to come, and things that had been. Now, we find out the church doesn't appear anymore until the nineteenth chapter of Revelation, then she returns with her Lord, gloriously washed in the blood.

25 Now, in this last quotation, for a little background to get set where

intellectual giant, but he that can humble himself is the man who conquers. The man who can be kicked around and still be a servant of Christ, that's the conqueror.

Now he said, "He has prevailed. He is worthy to take the book and to open it and to loose the seals thereof."

Now, we're going to find out afterwhile, maybe not today, what these seven seals hold, what they did.

62 Now let's take a little bit on redemption. Before this person could redeem, the first thing, he had to be worthy. He had to be the right kind of person. So this was accomplished when Jesus Christ was born a virgin birth, for He was God. He was God Himself made a man. He was God in human flesh. He had to be worthy; and the virgin blood of Jesus Christ made Him worthy. Now, we find that, if you want to go through the scripture of it, of I Peter 1:18 to 20, if you're keeping the scriptures down. He had to be worthy. And He was, because He took upon Him the form of man. He became man, God became kinfolks to us. And there we find then the beautiful part of God—Jehovah made flesh, and dwelt among us as the worthy one. Amen.

He prevailed. God took on the form of human flesh. He came to earth, was born a little baby and walked among us, and through his holy blood He prevailed.

63 Now, in the Old Testament, how a man was to proclaim his own, what did he do? He took an elder ... ten elders, and went to the gate and introduced what he was doing, to redeem what had been lost, and told who he was, and was ... give a witness. We find the beautiful story here (as I had a little note wrote here so I wouldn't forget it, being nervous this morning) upon Ruth, the kinsman, and Boaz. We went through it not long ago.

64 I want you to notice the three stages now of this resting. I want you to notice the resting of the church, just exactly the same thing. Now watch. The first place we find (as we've all been through that sermon, "The Kinsman Redeemer"), God was made flesh in order to become the redeemer. He was the one here in the fifth chapter, in the fifth chapter said:

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open the book or to read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to

Neville, I'll buy Brother Branham's property." He couldn't do it.

Brother Neville say, "No, sir, I don't want to sell it."

"Well, what'd you give for it?"

"Twenty-five thousand."

"Well, I'll give you \$35,000. I'll give you so-and-so."

"I don't care what you want. I don't want to sell it. I'll keep it."

But Billy Paul could come along and say, "I want my Daddy's possession. Here's your \$25,000." He had to let it go. That's right, because that was a law.

Oh, hallelujah! I hope you Christians see it. We are the salt of the earth. God gave this to his sons. He gave us the jurisdiction over all nature, all animals, all life everywhere. But Adam, our father, forfeited it to Satan. But where does it fall back? To the rightful owner, God who made it. Amen!

59 No wonder John said he wept bitterly, for he could find no man who was worthy to redeem it. The man must be worthy. John said, "I wept bitterly when no one was able to take the book, or to look on it, or loose the seals thereof." He said, "No man in heaven, no man in earth, no man beneath the earth, no man everywhere." No man.

Now, he never disregarded angels. Remember, this earth wasn't given to angels. It's the inheritance of man. Gabriel was worthy, sure. Somebody else was worthy. Michael might have been—that is, he might have been worthy to do it. But there was no man worthy, see. And John wept loud.

Someone said, "Because he found himself not worthy." That isn't so.

The man was under the influence of the Holy Ghost, he couldn't make an error like that. But it wasn't him not only unworthy; he could find nobody worthy.

60 So just then he said ... an elder came forth ... or, a strong angel. Said, "Weep not, for the Lion of the tribe of Judah [Amen!], the root of David, he hath prevailed! [Amen! Conquered, in other words.] He's worthy to take the book!" Amen.

Remember, he hadn't seen Him up to this time. Why? He was seated on a throne in there—God's throne. He was on the inside of the sanctuary. He hadn't seen Him to this time, so John was expecting to see a lion come forth, but he saw a lamb!

61 There you are, brothers. Through meekness, through sweetness, through the Holy Spirit that we conquer. Not some great mighty

John is now, we found out that in the last message.... I was just briefly looking over it yesterday, some of the context that I had spoken of. And John was carried up into heaven and saw those things. And I had noticed in there that He had give me a revelation, that.... You know, after his resurrection many was with Him, and some said, "What will happen to this man that's leaning upon Your bosom [John]?"

Jesus turned and said, "What is it to thee if he tarries till I come?" So He never....

Then there went a doctrine out. See how easy it can start? There went a doctrine out that John wasn't going to die until he seen Jesus coming—till the second coming. The Bible said there was a doctrine went out of that.

Howbeit, Jesus never said it that way. He said, "What is it to you if he tarries till I come?"

Now, we find out that he was lifted up into the heavens and saw from then until the coming of the Lord, as though he had been there and seen it all happen. John himself did not live ... he lived to be ninety-something years old, and then died a natural death (the only one of the apostles) after coming from his exile, from Isle of Patmos.

26 Now, there's one outstanding point that I would ... (I think they've taken the blackboard down) but I would like to emphasize on a little before we strike this vital thing. Oh, this is glorious! It's a wonderful, wonderful chapter.

And then the very next chapter begins with opening up these seals. Oh, my! And then we have to skip from there and go different places in the Bible, to get these seals when they opened and what the mysteries of them are. Oh, they are glorious, just rich with spiritual vitamins!

27 Now we see that one of the great outstanding things I'd like to bring your attention to, was the living creatures (of the last part of the fourth chapter) that John saw watching that ark of the covenant. You remember how they were fixed just like Israel in its march? They had ... now, there was a face of the living creature. And we found out that these creatures were not angels, neither were they men. They were cherubims. And we found them in the Old Testament with the ark. We find them in the New Testament. And then we find them over in the coming of the Lord again, cherubims guarding the mercy seat.

The mercy seat which no one could approach unless there was an atonement there for that person, only way that the sanctuary.... When it was sprinkled of the blood, then it became a mercy seat; but after the blood was taken off, then it became a judgment seat.

28 And, oh, my, no one could stand the judgments of God. The only thing that we can look for is mercy—not judgment, not righteousness. We cannot approach his justice because his justice.... He'll have to keep his Word; and keeping his word, "The day you eat thereof, that day you die." Who would want justice? I don't want justice. I call for mercy. My, let the mercy of God.... And the mercy seat's sprinkled.

But there was a time of the cleansing of the sanctuary, when it was a judgment seat, as long as the blood was off of the seat.

Now, we're approaching that time now. We are now approaching, in this age, a cleansing of the sanctuary and the judgments coming upon the earth, see. As long as blood is there, God cannot destroy the earth. Long as blood is there, nobody's a sinner before God. Everybody's right, because there's an atonement for everybody. But if you fail to accept that atonement and go into his presence, then you are a sinner, you're beyond that mercy. Then you've judged yourself. But now while there is mercy.... But when the cleansing of the sanctuary comes, the blood goes off the mercy seat and then the wrath of God falls upon the earth. Oh, my! God be merciful to us, that we be not in that day found without mercies of God.

29 Now, we see in there.... I'll try to kind of spiritualize it here, or draw it for you by my hand, that there were four corners how Israel camped themselves. They put the ark in the center, and on the four sides of the tent was three tribes of Israel, and three fours is twelve, or four threes, rather, twelve. And each three had a head, and each head of the tribe....

One of them was Reuben. He always camped to the south. He was the head of man. And Ephraim was to the west, with three tribes. He was the ox. Then on the east was Judah, which is the lion. And on the north was Dan, which was the eagle. Now notice. You remember them? All of you remember them well, how we had them drawn out: the eagle, and the ox, and the man, and the lion.

30 Now, you notice, Judah guards the eastern gate. And Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He shall descend from the eastern skies, enter in by the way of the gate. He comes from the eastern gate, from the tribe of Judah. And He's the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

And we find out, over in our coming message this morning, that He still is proclaimed "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root, the very beginning of David." David was the king eternally; and Christ sits on the throne of David in the millennium, which is eternal king. "There will never be one fail David." Hallelujah! "Never be one fail David!" God promised that, said, "None would ever fail David, not one."

You say, "What about today, where are those Jewish judges?"

much we try to beautify this world, and how much we try to make big fine homes and things, it still doesn't belong to Adam's seed. No, sir. It did not go to Adam's seed, no sir, because Satan took it lock, stock and barrel. Right! For Adam forfeited it.

55 Now, oh, my! Yes, so many things could be said. I just don't want to take too much of your time now, so, we have to baptize. All right.

He possesses it but he does not rightfully own it; Satan does. When the rightful owner lost it, there's only one way that it can be redeemed. Now, that's by ... a near kinsman is the only one who can rightfully redeem it. Now, 'course, this we have in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

56 Now, I want to say something here. The first thing that we want to go back to, is, if we go back in the Old Testament here (I believe I got it wrote down here somewhere, Leviticus 25. Leviticus 25:23 and 24), you can get the laws of redemption, you who are putting it down. To redeem anything, when a man.... When God gave Israel ... divided its land up through Joshua, each tribe and each fellow was given a land. Well, his children inherited his possession.

Now, if this man got poor and lost anything to another man, the only way it could be redeemed would be by a near kinsman. But it finally must come back. This man only holds it for a certain amount of time. It must come back to the original owner. Right. It must go back to the original owner. If it was out of the tribe of Judah, if it was.... If he was there and this was allotted to his father, then it was to him, or some near kinsman could take it. But, now, nobody else could rightly.... They could hold it, they could hold the deed on it. They could hold the deed until the debt was paid, but when the right man come along, the person that....

57 Say, for instance, if I owned a piece of property and I lost it, and I sold it over to Brother Neville, which is of another tribe, of Judah, or maybe sold it to an alien. And he rightfully owned it. He owned it, he could come in there and farm it, and take the goods off of it, and so forth. But really he just held the deed. He could not own it. That was the law in Israel. Now you read in Leviticus 25, and you'll see that he could not rightfully own it. He just held it.

58 Well, now, for instance, my son wanted.... Billy, back there, wanted to take my ... come buy this ground. Well, then, if the alien, or Brother Neville or some other person owned it, was holding the deed to it.... Now, if this was my next kinsman, was my blood relation, he could not hold it any longer. No, sir. He had to give it over, yes, sir, when that price was paid, when he gave him, say, \$25,000 for the piece of property.

Well, then, say, Brother Tony would come over and say, "Brother

world or the things of the world, then the love of God's not in you yet, see. But as long as you're above that, then you know you have your inheritance, see, you're on your road to your full redemption.

And, now, that will not come, you see, until we have first.... First we must see Jesus. And when He comes, then we'll have a body like his body and we'll be made like Him. All right.

52 Now, we see something that was lost here, because the Bible said so in the Book here that has redeemed us. What are we redeemed from? Something we must have lost. Before you can be redeemed, there must be something that redeemed us back. And all the inheritance that we had has been redeemed back. Then we must have had something one time that we do not have now, that this Lamb come to redeem, see. We had something we was lost from.

53 Now notice. What did we lose? Well, it was given to Adam to have eternal life. As long as he ate from the tree he had eternal life. And we notice again that Adam was the ... he inherited the earth. He was like an amateur god over the earth. The earth was his. Everything was given into his hand, he could do with it whatever he wanted to. He named it, and called it, and done whatever he wanted to. He was truly a son of God.

Now, in the fall, Adam forfeited the title deed to that. He forfeited to Satan. Satan took the title deed. Adam was very slothful, and he did not redeem his rights, for he could not redeem his rights. But Satan—which does not rightfully own it, but he possesses that—he is the god of this earth. The Bible said so. He possesses that. Not because that he really rightfully gets it, but he possesses it. Now do you get it? Satan possesses that. He holds it into his hands. Death is in his hands, the earth is in his hands. The world belongs to him, every nation belongs to him. He governs and controls the whole world and everything in the world—Satan does.

54 But, thank God, we're not of the world, see. So there you are, see. I don't mean the church. He don't control the church; he just controls the world. He said they were his, and he's the god of the world. Jesus said he was, and he is. He's the god of this earth, has blinded the eyes of the people, the god of this earth. He's the God of heaven. And now he rightly don't own this. He does not own it.

But he's forfeited.... And Adam forfeited the title deed to it, to this, all this stuff that we own, eternal life, and inheriting of the earth. Jesus said, in Matthew 5, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth," see. Now, we don't have it now.

And, look, it wasn't to Adam or any of his seed. Adam's seed absolutely lost everything, too. It's not the seed of Adam. No matter how

He still has the seed, Christ is his son, according to the flesh. One sits there. "David shall not fail." That's right. And Christ is that Lion of the tribe of Judah from which David sprang from.

31 Now, we find out that they were the guards to the mercy seat. They watched the mercy seat. Nothing come to it. It crossed over the tribes first before it could get to the mercy seat. Every man willing to give his life, every Israelite in camp would die before anything could enter into that camp over there and take that mercy seat. And now we find out that was the Old Testament order.

And in the New Testament order we find the same thing, that it was guarded, the mercy seat. Oh, I hope you get it! The mercy seat is still guarded, still got the guards. We found out that those guards were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, guarding the book of Acts, the acts of the Holy Spirit done amongst the apostles, which is the book of Acts of the New Testament. And the four writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all guard that mercy seat to show that it is God, the Holy Spirit today. Each scripture—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—every one will back up the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the acts of the Holy Spirit.

32 Now, when we get beyond that, then that's not it. But it backs up the true message. Like we find out in Acts 2:38, where, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins."

And today they adopted the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to be baptized in. There's no scripture for that. There's no background. There's nothing to guard that, not a thing! You say, "Matthew said it." Matthew guarded it. Matthew 28 ... 1:18 says:

... the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When ... his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with a child of the Holy Ghost.

And this was all done ... While Joseph her husband [rather], being a just man, ... not willingly to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately, on this wise.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Then, the Holy Ghost and God the Father is the same person or He had two fathers. See? So, you see?

And she shall bring forth a child ... call his name JESUS:...

... and this was done, that it might be fulfilled ... spoken of ... prophet....

God would be with us, called Emmanuel—which is God (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost), in one name, Jesus Christ—which guards that gate against error.

33 A few days ago in Chicago, before a ministerial association of Chicago, greater Chicago, I knew.... The Holy Spirit got me up in the night and told me, "Stand by the window." Said, "There is a group of ministers and they're fixing a breakfast for you." Said, "Be careful, they're going to attack you upon this."

I said, "Thank You, Lord." He showed me where it would be set.

And I went and told some ministers, Brother Carlson and Brother Tommy Hicks, how it would be. I said, "The place that you have ordered, it won't be like that. We're going to be in another place." Told how Dr. Meade would be sitting, how a colored man would come in, sit this way, and all about it.

34 Then that morning they said.... My son said to me, he said, "Daddy, you going over there in that fuss?"

I said, "I ain't going over to fuss. I'm going over, anointed with the Holy Spirit, with the Word of God that'll guard that mercy seat, as long as He's there."

So when we got down there, before they even had a chance to ask one thing, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, said, "Now is the time to say it."

I said, "I know why you're here." And I said, "Now, Brother Hicks, and you, Brother Carlson, the head of the Christian Businessmen," I said, "isn't everything just exactly the way the Holy Spirit told me day before yesterday? That you did not get that room, we'd be over here?" They just got it that morning. And I said, "Now look, everybody is placed just the way it said it would be." I said, "The thing you want to approach me on is on the name of Jesus Christ for baptism."

35 And when we.... The Holy Spirit begin to take the Word of God and reveal it and interpret it down like that, when all those bunch of trinitarian ministers sitting there, reaching under the table and shaking hands with one another, tears running down their cheeks. And I understand that seventy-two of them is coming down here to this Tabernacle for me to baptize them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The mercy seat is guarded, see, the Holy Spirit guarding the mercy seat. We must keep it just exactly.... Let that Word of God ... them great messengers sitting there, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, that backs up

When we ever get to a place to think that the church, a beautiful church, that we're trying to compare with the things of the world. We're trying to have a better basketball team than they got, we've got to have a better building, we've got to have a better bunco game, we've got to have better this and that, or that. How can we ever compare it with the glamour and the glistening of the world? We're not.... The gospel isn't a glisten; it's a glow. There's a difference between a glitter and a glow, see.

49 We just go around, as I've said, taking one corpse from one morgue to another, changing members and things like that. Well, what good does it do us? And we're trying to make it glittery, big fine steeples, great big fine places. We've got to have a better one than the Methodist or a better one than the Baptist, and we're all trying to compete with the Catholic, and we're having bunco games and parties and suppers and entertainments, and everything.

The church can never compare with the world. How can you and your church entertainment ever compare with the Masonic Lodge, or any of those people who can entertain? That's their grounds. Don't try to go over on their grounds.

50 But we got something they haven't got! We got Jesus. Let them come over here if they want something. Stay in Christ. We have Jesus. They can't have Jesus until they come over here. And when we get over there, we're off of his ground.

Don't try to glitter. Glow! And you can't glow; you got to let it glow through you, see.

The little glowworm, he doesn't glow because he wants to glow; because he does glow, there's something in him glowing. It's in himself, it's himself doing it, something inside of him just glowing through.

Well, that's the way it is with the Holy Spirit. We don't have to be peculiar, be different, be anything more. Just let loose and live a godly life and just let God live through you. That'll glow for the gospel, see; not glitter. Glitter—that makes monkeys jump at things like that, anything that glitters. You know, they're always jumping for something that's shiny. But glow is a soft, mellow sweetness of the Holy Spirit.

51 Now we are waiting for that resurrection. Well, now, do you understand (say "amen" if you do) what I mean by saying "the earnest"? We know we have passed from death unto life because we're lifted up. We are lifted up, not in ourselves, but lifted up from the things of the world, that we love everybody. And God loves us, and we know it. And we watch our lives and see that it is the Holy Spirit, because we don't no more care for the things of the world, see. There you are. As long as you love the

daughters of God. What kind of people should we be? Oh, my, when we think of that! Think of it!

Now we have the earnest, our spirit's groaning for the full adoption, but now we have the earnest of it. As we receive the Holy Spirit, it is the earnest of our complete adoption or complete salvation. Oh, how beautiful! I just love that. All right.

46 We are waiting for the fullness of adoption. This will take place when? At the first resurrection. That's when our bodies will be changed from these vile creatures that we are and we'll have a body like his own glorious body, for we shall see Him as He is, and we will be like Him. When He appears, we'll appear in his likeness. We will have a body like his, a glorious, glorified body, and all the trials and struggles of life will fade off into a little mist and blow away to never be no more.

And these earthly tabernacles which we now groan in, we're waiting for that earnest ... for the salvation fully in its fullness to come. But now in these tabernacles of clay we have something that tells us that we have raised up so far. Amen. What is the earnest? It's the little down payment that holds it, Brother Dauch. It's the earnest. Now, once when we loved the things of the world, once when we sinned and went about doing things of the world, and cared not for God, we were alienated from Him, without God, without Christ, in the world; now, God sent his Holy Spirit and through that we are lifted up from those things. Now we have the earnest, that we know that we've passed from death unto life. Amen!

Here, as I was trying to show this, like this. Here's where the ordinary sinner runs, down here on the bottom. Now, the Christian goes up a little higher than this, he rises above all that stuff. That's the earnest of his salvation.

47 Now, that you might know what visions do to you.... So help me, God being my judge, I never intend to have another one. If it does, I'll keep it to myself, see, because I see what it does. The people are not ready for such a ministry, so you just have to let it go, you see, go on back here. If I ever come to the field again, I'll be an evangelist. But look here. On this here, coming back in here, up in here, you go up into this heavenlies up in here. You live right up around in those realms there. You go beyond anything that man can think of, beyond anything of them things. And it brings you up into them spaces there.

48 But, you see, now we have, by the Holy Spirit, the earnest of our inheritance, because we've been lifted up from the things of the world; and we ride right along with the world, but we are above the world! O Brother Neville, God be merciful and grant to the church of the living God....

every act of that New Testament.

And now, that's exactly what I said in the first part of this morning's message, let's keep it right there guarded by the gospel, see. Keep it right there where the gospels will guard it.

36 Now, we find out in there, they were guarding God's mercy seat in the Old Testament; and there, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, all of them. And even the Lion of the tribe of Judah laid down his life to guard that mercy seat, that it be sprinkled with his own blood. And there He stands this morning, today, the great conqueror which shall descend from the east someday and we shall see Him.

37 Now, we turn quickly, because I know there's a baptismal service. What is this seven-sealed book? Oh, what a great thing! Did you notice how it says here, "It was seven seals on the back of the book"? It's something.... Oh, may God help us now and give us courage, and maybe sooner or later I can get it to you. Look, this is not written in the Word. It's sealed on the back of the Word. The book was sealed by these seven seals. The whole mystery of the book is sealed up in these seven seals. This is one of the most greatest chapters in the whole book of the Revelation. Look:

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat upon the throne a book written within and ... [Written within. Inside's written. That's what we're reading this morning.] and ... the backside, sealed with seven seals. [Outside the Bible, what the Bible doesn't even say, it's sealed in here with seven seals, the mysteries of God.]

38 Now, what is it? Now, notice. A seal represents a finished product, something that has been already tested, proven, and then sealed. Where is ... we have the earnest of our salvation now by being sealed with the Holy Spirit. That is the earnest of our salvation.

Let's go back just a minute. I got a scripture written down here, several of them. I won't have time to get to all, but let's go back to Ephesians, just a moment, and read in the first chapter of Ephesians, so that you might get the real meaning.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus...

And, remember, John had this letter addressed to the Ephesians, to Ephesus and the faithful in Christ, the ones that Paul had preached to and brought up, nurtured with the gospel.

... Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ.

That's those who are already in Christ. How do we get in Christ? "By

one Spirit we're all baptized into one body," which is the body of Christ.

39 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and ... the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Think of it now! He has blessed us with all heavenly grace, blessings, as we assemble together in Christ Jesus as the believers, the elected church, called out, set aside. He has sealed us in by His Holy Spirit, and now is revealing to us all the things that is in the future for us. Now we're up to the seven seals.

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame ... in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to his own good pleasure....

What a beautiful thought this is!

40 Let's just read on just a minute. I want to get down here especially to the twelfth verse, and thirteenth, fourteenth:

That we should be to the praise of his glory who first trusted in him.

In whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, and the gospel of your salvation: in whom ... after ... ye believed, you were sealed with the holy Spirit of promise,

"After ye believed." Oh, my Baptist brother, how could you say that isn't so? You say you receive the Holy Ghost when you believe? It said, "After you believed then you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Notice:

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

41 Now, we find out then that a seal means that it is a finished thing with God. It's already settled. And every believer was sealed with this promise from the very beginning, because before the foundation of the world we were predestined unto the adoption of sons. Before the world ever began! Oh, what a hope, that makes us rest steadfast and sure; an anchor to the soul that's not tossed about here and there but anchored in Christ, a hope that's sure. Predestinated us before the foundation of the world, to the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ. Oh, how wonderful! I love that finished work with God.

42 Now let me just quote another Scripture to you. "All that he foreknew, he has called; all that he called, he justified; all that he has

justified, he hath glorified." All the way from the beginning, God, in his great infinite mind, foresaw his church and predestinated it unto the adoption of children through Jesus Christ, to give them eternal life at the end of the age. What a beautiful thing! Brother Neville, that just makes me feel lots better—adoption by the blood of Jesus Christ.

43 Now notice as we go on. Now, we know it's a finished.... We are predestinated with the Lamb. The Holy Spirit is our seal. The earnest means "more is yet to come." We only have the earnest of it now. The earnest is just the down payment. Oh, how beautiful! Just the down payment that holds it, and secures it, and anchors it so no one else can touch it. It's the earnest of our adoption. Amen. The Holy Spirit is now the earnest of God in our hearts. Sealed, the adoption of sons waiting us at the end of the road, sons and daughters of God!

44 Let's turn to another scripture, right quick, I got written down on this other page here. Romans 8:22, I think it's beautiful. Now, in studying yesterday, I kind of wrote out a few scriptures here that I'd like to refer to.

... we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Oh, do you see it? "All creation is groaning," said Paul. Everything is groaning. Look at the trees, how they struggle. Look at the flowers, how they struggle for life; just for the frost to tear them down. Look at the trees, how they struggle to hold their branches out to sing glories unto God. See, everything, all nature, all animals, all birds (how he flies from the enemy quickly and gets away), everything groaning. "And we ourselves," said Paul, "we groan, too, with them, for we are waiting for the redemption of our body."

45 But now, now.... They've been all those years, until now, now, we have the earnest of our inheritance! Oh, my! What do we have? We have the evidence that God lives. We have the evidence that God is with us. We have the evidence that God has not forsaken us, that we are his and He is ours, because we, in our bodies, we now tabernacle the Holy Spirit of God that cries out, "Abba, Father." And there's nothing can ever take that away. We are anchored in Christ.

Now, the trees does not have it, nature does not have it, but yet we are still groaning with them because as yet we haven't received the fullness of our adoption. But we have the earnest of it, that we were picked up from the things of the world and now become sons and