

**AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET  
COMES TO  
THE NEW TESTAMENT AGE**

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***A Word From The Author***

After hearing the message of God that Brother William Branham brought, I knew he was the messenger to the Seventh Church Age, the last of the Seven Church Age Messengers. God also revealed to me that he was the prophet spoken of in Malachi 4:5, 6.

Nevertheless, I could not understand how his ministry would fit in with the ministry recorded in Ephesians 4:11-16, as an apostle is the first in the five-fold ministry. I could not understand this and it bothered me greatly. And as I ask other ministers about this, no one seemed to be very interested. So I began to seek God about the matter, as Daniel did with prayer and fasting (Daniel 9:3).

I closed myself up in a room in our mobile home, and sought God for forty days and nights with prayer, fasting and reading the Word of God. In the following pages is the revelation that came to me.

Please read prayerfully,  
Brother Ben Howard

Deut 18:15-19. Let us begin reading the Word of God. I like the Word of God, don't you? It's more precious than silver or gold or whatever a man might gain in this world. The Word says, "Heaven and earth is going to pass away, but my Word shall abide forever. Amen.

Now reading the Word of the Lord, it reads like this. ***"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken. According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the days of the assembly, saying, let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not."***

Now allow me to stop and comment on this. Notice how God ascended on Mt. Sinai, and spoke to the people according to Exodus 19:16-18. How the mountains were on fire, and the smoke rose up as of a great furnace, and there were thundering and lightening, and the mountains quake greatly. The sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, and God began to speak unto Moses, and so terrible was the sight, that Moses said I exceedingly fear and quake. Heb 12:21. Notice as the people saw this terrible sight, they made a request to God,

and this is the request they made. Let not God speak unto us anymore lest we die, but speak unto Moses, and let him tell us the Word of God. Here was God's answer to them. Deut. 18:17-19. ***“And the Lord said unto me, they have well spoken that which they have spoken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which He (Notice, He the Prophet) shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.”***

Notice the given prophecy mainly pointed to Jesus Christ, but this established God's way of speaking to the people in the Old Testament Times, not by the king, not by the priest, but only by the prophets, so God's way of speaking to the people after Christ came into this world to fulfill the prophecy spoken by Moses, Deut 18: 15-19, changed. For more proof on this subject read Heb 1:1, 2. ***“God, who at sundry time and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by His son, whom he has appointed heir of all things by whom he also made the worlds.”***

We are all aware that God sent a prophet to this age, who was none other than William Branham, who carried the message of God around the world many times. He also was the messenger to the Laodicea Church Age. He was the Elijah spoken of in Malachi 4:5, 6. ***“Behold I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful days of the Lord: And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”***

Many of you reading this might say, that it was speaking of John the Baptist, but please notice that Malachi 4:5, 6, has a two fold fulfillment. He shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children was speaking of John the Baptist. According to Luke 1:17, ***“And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”***

To turn the hearts of the children to the fathers is speaking of Elijah to come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord at the end of time, which was William Branham the Seventh Church Age Messenger, so you see that Malachi 4:5, 6 has part A and B fulfillment. Part A being John the Baptist who foreran his first coming. Part B being William Branham who was sent to forerun his second coming turning the hearts of the children back to the fathers, which means he rediscovered the original foundation that the apostles and prophets laid. Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone.

Remember the early church had a five fold ministry according to Eph 4:11, this ministry was to perfect the church, but according to church history as the apostles died out, and the apostolic age passed, the church began to fall from the Word of God. As they received less and less of the Word of God, they received less of the spirit of God, and the blessings that come by the Word of God.

Now you can see that the church was getting off the foundation laid by the apostles. So that by 325 A.D., they had drifted so far from the Word of God that

they had organized and made a denomination. They changed many of the doctrines established by the apostles, such as water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; to Father, Son and Holy Ghost baptism. One God changed to three (a trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost), of which the apostles spoke nothing about. Many, many more doctrines were changed of which we will not write in this booklet, as our intentions are to keep this booklet small.

Our only motive for writing this booklet is to get the people, especially those that heard the prophet's message to see that he was an Old Testament prophet. That God sent to this New Testament Age to fulfill the office of Elijah, the prophet, according to Malachi 4:5, 6. For remember the Word came only to the prophet in Old Testament times.

Since the church had got off the true foundation as laid by the apostles and no one knew how to place the scripture concerning the church correctly, God had to use one man, and bring the revelation to him. For remember the New Testament Ministry is a five fold ministry, five offices. Ephesians 4:11. So God had to bring it back to one man first to restore us back to the original teachings of Christ. Remember God never intended to perfect the church by one man.

At this point, let us look again to Heb 1:1-2, where the scripture says, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." But notice the plan of God was to perfect the church by the Five Fold Ministry, that He gave to the church for this purpose when He left. (Eph 4:11-16)

Now through the dark ages in fact from the first century up to the turn of this century, there was nothing that even resembled the five fold ministry, but God promised to perfect the church and bring it to complete unity being one body. Now that God has restored the Word by Elijah the prophet, we have all the potentials now for a five fold ministry and it could not have been until God by His prophet uncovered the true foundation.

Now let us look at the New Testament Ministry from the Word of God only. Now we know that Paul was the messenger to the first church age. He received the revelation from God, how to lay the foundation for all the church ages, being seven in all according to Revelation, chapter 1 through chapter 3. In 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 3:10, 11; it says, "**According to the grace of God which is given to me, as a wise materbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth there on. But let every man take heed how he buildeth there upon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**"

Notice now, we are dealing with the New Testament Ministry, Ephesians 4:11. In which the first office being an apostle with the authority to place doctrine correctly in the church. Notice in New Testament time the prophets are second. There is a vast difference between Old Testament and New Testament Prophets.

As we have already stated in Old Testament times the Word came only to the prophets. This proved to be a great stumbling block to the people that were closely associated with Bro. Branham, the Old Testament Prophet, that God sent to this New Testament Age. Because of this, they fail to see the New Testament Ministry. Therefore, they do not believe that the scriptures teach that there will

be any more prophets. According to Ephesians 4, there will be more prophets as part of the five fold ministry. Notice the type of ministry they will have, the same type ministry that is recorded in the book of Acts. They stayed right with the church and worked with the apostles and the rest of the ministry. Whereas in the Old Testament the prophet Elijah and many others usually stayed in the wilderness, and only came out when they had Thus Saith The Lord. Such as the time when Elijah came to Ahab to tell him there would be no rain until he (Elijah) called for it. As soon as he spoke this, he went right back to the wilderness.

That is the way the prophet William Branham said that a prophet would do. This he said because he had the Spirit of Elijah on him. He also made the statement many times that the Word of the Lord came only to the Prophet. This clearly shows that the Spirit on him (the Spirit of Elijah) was from the Old Testament period. Therefore God sent him to this period to turn **(NOT LEAD)** the hearts of the children back to the fathers.

People fail to understand that the only way God has ordained to perfect the church is by the five fold ministry that will work together preaching and teaching the Word of God with the right spirit.

The message he (William Branham) brought will bring the ministry, those that are ordained of God to be used in this age of perfection to complete unity. The apostle being the spokesman as he is first in the five fold ministry will be one like unto Paul, who charged Timothy according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:1-2, to speak only the Word. He will be the leader according to 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 4:16; ***“Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.”*** Many believe Paul was a prophet, because of the misunderstanding of the New Testament Ministry, since there are many people who still wants to hold on to Old Testament teachings concerning this, but as we have already stated in this booklet that Paul was the one that laid the foundation for the church ages, being an Apostle.

## PAUL'S OFFICE

Now I want to take you to the scripture and prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Paul's office was that of an apostle. We shall go first to Romans, and let Paul himself tell you what his ministering office was. Romans 11:13; ***“For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the APOSTLE of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.”*** This clearly shows that Paul's ministering office was that of an apostle. But we shall not stop here, since there are many who believe that Paul was a prophet like unto the one we had in this age.

Get your Bible and read all of these scripture references which clearly shows Paul's office. Romans 1:1, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 1:1, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 9:1-2, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:9, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 1:1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 12:11, Gal 1:1, Eph 1:1, Col 1:1, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:1, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:1, 11, Titus 1:1. Now after reading these verses if you cannot see that Paul was an Apostle and not a Prophet, then you are willingly ignorant of this truth of God.

## NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS

After proving Paul's office was that of an Apostle, first of the five ministering offices. We shall now look at the office of a New Testament Prophet to show you that his office differs greatly from that of an Old Testament Prophet. As we have already stated the New Testament Prophets worked very closely with that of the other ministering offices, and doesn't resemble that of an Old Testament Prophet very much. As we must use scripture for the above statement, let us look at the ministry as recorded in Acts 11:27-30; ***"And in those days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: Which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."***

Now notice Agabus the New Testament Prophet did not teach the church any doctrine, nor did he interpret the Word of God for the church, as some people say today that a Prophet is a divine interpreter of the Word of God. At the most this could only be said about an Old Testament Prophet and certainly not about a New Testament Prophet. According to Acts 15:31, 32; ***"Judas and Silas, being prophets exhorted the brethren and read the letter that was wrote by the Apostles."*** The prophets had to read the letter wrote by the Apostles in order to correct the church doctrinally. If prophets were divine interpreters of the Word why would they have to bring a letter from the Apostles to read to the church?

Also in Acts 21:10, we find Agabus the Prophet, and he isn't teaching the church any doctrine, but he takes Paul's girdle and binds his own hands and feet and says, ***"Thus Saith the Holy Ghost so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."*** Notice a New Testament Prophet's ministry is mostly prophesying to the church, or to individuals such as in the case of Paul and Agabus. Usually about things that are to happen then. As we do not find in the Word of God any prophecy that the New Testament Prophets prophesied that was not fulfilled in their day, whereas the Old Testament Prophets not only prophesied about things that was to happen then, but also things that are still happening now, and will continue to happen even in the millennium reign (1,000 years). They taught the Word of God to the people as the Word of God came only to the prophets in Old Testament times.

Now if you believe the Word of God, you should be able to see the difference between an Old Testament Prophet and a New Testament Prophet. We could deal with this more lengthy, but I believe those that are predestinated to be in the perfected church (Bride) will see it, so that they can look to the five fold ministry and receive the perfection that is promised in Ephesians 4. Remember this is a promise and the Word of God says concerning Sara in Heb 11:11; ***"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."*** I also judge God faithful who has promised us a five fold ministry for the perfecting of the Saints.

## BRIDE IS PERFECTED BY NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRY

Now what you have just read in this booklet should have cleared up your thinking concerning the Old Testament Prophet that has come to this New Testament Age. You should be able to see by now that God did not send the prophet to this age to perfect the church, as this would be contrary to all the New Testament teachings. The only one that will ever perfect the church will be Jesus Christ, Ephesians 4. For the third time let us look to Heb 1:1-2, to show you how God has ordained to speak to the different dispensations. In Old Testament times He spake to the fathers by the prophets. But in this New Testament Age He speaks to us by His Son, and since He has ascended back to Heaven, He gave gifts unto men, and this is the way He has chosen to speak to the people in this New Testament Time. (Ephesians 4)

Now many will say that this will never be, because they do not understand God's leadership in the earth, which is the five fold ministry; Christ in it giving the apostle authority to speak like Peter did on the day of Pentecost. For on the day of Pentecost, Peter was not quoting scripture when he said in Acts 2:38; ***“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*** Neither was Paul quoting scripture in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:51-52; when he said, ***“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”***

It was written in the scripture that Elijah would come to forerun Jesus first coming. But it was not written in the scripture that he would baptize the people, neither was it written in the scripture that He would have disciples to follow Him (John the Baptist). It was written in the scripture that the Lord would come (Jesus Christ), but it was not written in the scripture that He would ordain twelve apostles. We could go on and on in the New Testament showing you things that the Early Church did that was not in the scripture, for the New Testament was not written then.

There is much division among the people that follow the message that Bro. Branham brought. Paul strongly condemned the Corinthians for having division among themselves in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 11:17-19, accusing them of having heresies among them. If it was heresy that caused division among the Corinthians, please tell me what is causing division among those that follow the Seventh Church Age Messenger?

Carnal Christians want to see some kind of outward manifestations to prove that God is with the five fold ministry. But this is not God's way of vindicating His ministry, as God said in His Word that He would show His Bride by the anointing, the ones that was seeking to seduce her, as is recorded in 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:26, 27; ***“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you, but the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you***

***of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”***

In the last days, the Bride will know who has God's message for her. It will be like it was with Cornelius in Acts, chapter 10, when he prayed earnestly. God gave him a vision and said, Acts 10:5; ***“And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter.”*** Now God could have told Cornelius what he would have to do to be saved, but God gave this work to the ministry. As the seed only comes through the male body, He gave gifts unto men. (Ephesians 4)

Now you can see by the above verses, as Christ comes to the earth in a greater measure, the body members will receive such anointing from God that the Spirit will speak to the Bride in dreams and in visions and audible voices (prophecy) and other wise, to show her who has the Word of God for her. For more scripture on this please read Acts 2:16-21.

In this hour all those that are not ordained to be part of this ministry will be showed up, because the members of the body will know the true ministry that has the Word to lead her to perfection. Titus 1:10, 11 proves this saying, “That the mouth of the deceiver must be stopped.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:19; “The only way this can be done is for Christ to come back to earth, making it a heavenly day for the Bride, with the light to see the folly of the deceiver. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 3:8-9, “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”

Notice these resist the truth in the last days, as many of you reading this booklet, you know it is the truth of God, but just like Cain and Balaam, you will resist it and go deeper into your traditions and folly. But your folly will be made manifest as the Bride cannot be fooled any longer, because her head which is Christ, who has come in the Five Fold Ministry is uniting the body with the head, making the perfect man Christ Jesus, the stature of the fullness of Christ in the earth. You can no more deceive this body (Bride of Christ) than you could deceive the man (Christ Jesus) who walked the sandy shores of Galilee.

The member body will be one body, male and female, Christ and Bride united perfectly together, like Adam who as the first son of God, before God separated Eve from him by taking a rib from his side, creating a body for her. Adam was both male and female in his original state. So also is the body of Christ in the earth when fully united together by the five fold ministry; Christ being masculine and the Bride being feminine part of the body.

At this time Jesus will finish His work that He could not do at His first coming, because it was not time for it. Also 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:19, speaks of the Daystar (which is Christ) will arise in our hearts, the dawning of a new day. This work will be finished and cut short in righteousness, because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth according to Romans 9:28. It is recorded in Acts 13:40, that many will not believe this move of God. Verse 40-41, ***“Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets. Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.”***

Notice according to Ephesians 4, the apostle is first, and has authority like that of Paul who brought revelation to the church. The other ministers spoke the same message that Paul brought according to 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 1:10, ***"I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.***

By now if you are a serious candidate for the Bride of Christ, you should begin to get the vision of Gods work at the end time. For the time is short and the work is great. All those that do not wake up and get the vision will perish according to Proverbs 29:18. Many have become contented just to sit over a tape recorder, and listen to a message that should bring them back to the Word. But they will not accept what the message said would be here, a super church without spot or wrinkle with Christ among them doing the work.

The ministry is no more a one man ministry. As this was fulfilled when Bro. Branham rediscovered the foundation, and God took him off the scene, Malachi 4:5, 6 being fulfilled clears the way for Ephesians 4 as this is the last ministry and its job is to perfect the Bride. The five fold ministry is not a ministry of repentance, (Heb 6:1,2). Those that are ordained to come to repentance by the five fold ministry will, but the main reason the ministry is given is to perfect the Bride, only being perfected when she is in complete unity. So since the Bride is not perfected, the next thing in God's program is Ephesians 4:11-16.

In closing this message, let me say, I know there will be many who will not agree with this message, but please ask the Lord if it is the truth of God for this hour. May God bless you.