"Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and for ever."
(Heb. 13:8)

CIRCULAR

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Special greetings to all who are part of the Church of Jesus Christ worldwide in all countries and languages with 2. Peter 3:9,

"The LORD is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness..."

Two thousand years have come and gone since our LORD made the promise to go away and to prepare a place and return to take us home. Since then all true believers have waited for this great event to happen. God, the Eternal One, has a time plan by which all things take place. To the casual observer it may seem as though things remain as they were, but upon taking a closer look we understand more than ever before that we are nearing the end of the end-time. We are watching Bible prophecies in every realm, seeing them fulfilled, and therefore are remembering the words of our LORD, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Lk. 21:28; Mt. 24:33). It could happen at any moment. The midnight cry is reaching the ends of the earth. "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." (Mt. 25).

The everlasting Gospel is being preached as a witness to all nations as foretold, only thereafter the end would be (Mt. 24:14; Rev. 14:6). In connection with that, the calling out, the preparation and the completion of the Bride church is taking place (2. Cor. 6:14-18 a. o.). According to 1. Thess. 4:13-18, the LORD Jesus <u>Himself</u> will descend with the Shout, with the Voice of the archangel and with the Trumpet of God in the same way He went to glory (Acts 1:11). Then we shall meet Him in the air and be for ever with Him (1. Thess. 4:13-18). We shall see Him as He is and will be transformed into His image (1. Jn. 3:1-3).

Among the many signs of the time we look especially to Israel, the fig tree (Hos. 9:10), which has come to life again and already bears fruit (Mt. 24; Lk. 21). From 143 countries the Jews returned to the Land of their forefathers (Ezek. 36:24). There are people in Jerusalem who indeed expect the Messiah and also those who believe the Temple will be rebuilt (Rev. 11:1). We are also seeing the revival of the "Roman World Empire" in the form of the European Union, as the prophet Daniel foretold in chapter 2:40-43 and in chapter 7:17-25. With the unification of the churches and world religions under Roman predominance, the goal of world government is almost within reach. Rome, the "eternal" city, as it is called, takes the spiritual reins of power visibly into her hands while directing the worldly powers. In the prophetic Scripture we have

the all-inclusive and fitting answer for it. It "... is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." (Rev. 17:18)

In the past 25 years of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, the Vatican has established diplomatic relations with 82 countries. The 102 state visits he made have paid off. Everywhere the Pope kisses "Mother Earth" in order to plant "Mother Church", so that eventually he can rule as "Overlord — Pontifex Maximus" over all. Altogether, the Vatican State has exchanged ambassadors with 174 countries. The Vatican is present wherever world politics are made — at the UN in New York, at the EU in Brussels. "Europe, think about your Christian-catholic roots!" is the message addressed with view of the European Union. There are different cultures on earth, but only one real "leading culture". To get everyone on board, the Vatican has found a new word for the Jewish, the Christian, and the Muslim religion — "the Abrahamaic religions". These end-time developments with special focus on the "Middle East" are known as "peace process". This can be seen by all who have Bible knowledge (1. Thess. 5:1-3).

Our main task, of course, is to show forth the things that apply to the church of Jesus Christ, as special promises were given to her. Only the true Bible believers will recognise the timely, all-inclusive events, for they have inside knowledge by believing the message of the hour. They receive the promised Word-seed, are born again to a living hope (1. Pet. 1:20-25) and constitute the Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:22-24).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Head of His Body — the Church (Col. 1:18-21). HE is the Firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:29). HE was the promised seed (Gen. 3:15) Who came and bruised the serpent's head. HE was the Word Himself that was made flesh and dwelled among us (Jn. 1). To His Own He gave the promise, "... the world seeth me no more; but ye see me ..." (Jn. 14:19); "... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Mt. 28:20). After His resurrection, the LORD revealed Himself only to His Own, not a single time did unbelievers see Him after He rose (Lk. 24; 1. Cor. 15; a. o.) Unbelief condemns people who remain separated from God, belief saves them in the Presence of God. True children of God are also the children of promise (Rom. 9:8), as the Redeemer, the Son, was the promised Saviour (Isa. 9:5-6).

The concern now is the orientation according to the plan of salvation on the basis of the Holy Scriptures. In the first Christian century the Apostle Paul was given the charge to lay out the course of the events. In regards to Israel, the Old Testament covenant people, he writes, "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." (Rom. 11:7). That is the way it was then with God's people: Whosoever believed reached the goal, and whoever did not believe was blinded. Thus it remains, right to the end of the New Testament era. Therefore the

admonition is given, "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts ...! (Heb. 3:7-19).

So no one is left without warning, let it be stated here again: All believers in the various churches, regardless of what they stand for, teach, or practise, are more or less satisfied with themselves. Solemn services with rich programs are found everywhere. But most of them are bypassing what God has promised to do in the completion of His plan, as the orthodox Jews did then. In the ceremonious charismatic meetings millions are led to bypass what God is presently doing.

Very important

The promise of the one who should prepare the way of the LORD at the first coming of Christ, which was fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist, was therefore so important, because through it the inauguration of the Plan of salvation took place. It is the same now with the promise of the final part before the Return of Jesus Christ, whereby all things are restored and brought back into the original state (Mal. 4:5-6; Acts 3:19-21; a. o.). John the Baptist was not a man of the Temple or of synagogue services, he was a man sent from God with the message of God to the people of God. The leadership could not place John, because he did not fit into their religious tradition. He did, however, fit all the better into the Kingdom of God, which was on account of his ministry making its breakthrough at that time (Lk. 16:16). The LORD Jesus placed the ministry of John the Baptist scripturally, as can be seen in Mt. 11:12-15. Mark, the evangelist, did so in the first three verses of chapter 1. Luke in chapter 3 and in chapter 7:24-30. In the gospel of John, chapter 1:19-28, the man of God gave his testimony. He replied to all three questions with a "No!" and confessed that he was not the Christ, not the prophet Elijah, and not the promised "Messiah-prophet" (Dt. 18:15-18). The beginning and the conclusion of the New Testament were each to be introduced with the ministry of a promised prophet.

There are general predictions for the end-time that are believed by many, regardless of their church affiliation. World-famous TV-Evangelists and preachers in local churches speak about end-time events under the terms "apocalypse", "eschatology". All expect the coming of the LORD Jesus Christ in this or that way. But they remain in their own pre-conceived ideas and interpretations. It is not given unto them to recognise the promised ministry, therefore they will not experience the actual preparation occurring in the Bride Church just before the return of the Bridegroom.

It should be worthwhile to consider this for a moment: For four thousand years believers waited eagerly for the Messiah to come, but because of their own imaginary concept they did not recognise Him! Mainly because the spiritual leaders did not believe that John the Baptist's ministry was a direct

fulfilment of the promised Word. They rejected God's plan of salvation for themselves and also kept the people away from it (Lk. 7:27-30). The LORD came to His Own, but His Own received Him not. Just the few who believed the way-preparing message received Him and were given power to become the sons of God (Jn. 1). Amen.

Is it now the same?!

How is it now? The promise of Mal. 4:5-6, which our LORD confirmed to still be in the future after the ministry of John the Baptist was completed, is fulfilled in our time. "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." (Mt. 17:11; Mk. 9:12). This is the most significant ministry promised to the Church now in the end-time, which had to happen before the Return of Christ. That is the truth — whether someone believes it or not, whether it is accepted or rejected. God is bound to His Word, He keeps what He promises. The answer of our LORD Jesus is valid and not the argumentation of the scholars. Only those who believe as the Scripture actually says will have part in what God is now doing. Whoever believes that both promises — the one of him who should prepare His way at His first coming (Mal. 3:1) and the one about the prophet Elijah, who should come just before the great and dreadful "Day of the LORD" — were already fulfilled back then is in direct opposition to what the LORD Jesus said and what the gospels confirm. The truth is that John ministered in the power and spirit of Elijah (Lk. 1:15-20) and therefore was also called Elijah.

John the Baptist stepped on the scene at the commencement of the "Day of salvation" (Isa. 49:6-9; 2. Cor. 6:2; a. o.). Since then two thousand years have come and gone and the terrible "Day of the LORD", when the sun shall shine no more and the moon turn into blood and the stars will fall from heaven (Isa. 13:4-10; Joel 2; Zeph. 1:14-18; Mal. 4:1-6; Mt. 24:29; Acts 2:20; 1. Thess. 5:1-3; Rev. 6:12-17), when the world shall be in flames (2. Pet. 3:10; a. o.), has not yet been. The "Day of the LORD" shall come as a thief in the night. It will commence at the moment the time of grace, the "Day of salvation" ends. Only if we believe God and His Word we shall be granted to understand it the way it is truly meant. Whoever does not believe what the Scripture promises for this time cannot get the revelation thereof. God does not permit anyone to present their own interpretations of Bible prophecies (2. Pet. 1:16-21). The most excellent interpretation is actually the blinding work of the enemy, who distracts from the fulfilment of what God has promised. God watches over His Word to fulfil it with those who believe, as soon as the time has come.

God's decisions

God is free in His decisions. HE alone chooses His messengers. The call to service and a commission are solely His doing. From the course of church history we know about very special men who in their day were sent to the church. In our time — whether it is received or rejected — His choice was indeed William Branham. Because of his divine calling he had the task to turn the hearts of those who belong to the Church of Jesus Christ back to the original faith of our fathers, to the original teachings and practices as we know them from apostolic times. On June 11th, 1933, at about 2:00 PM, similar to what Saul experienced at midday, he heard the voice from the supernatural cloud which came down like a brightly shining star, visible to over 4,000 people. At this baptismal service on the Ohio river he was told, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, the message that is given you will be a forerunner of the second coming of Christ." In at least 40 sermons Brother Branham repeated word for word the commission given to him. With special emphasis on the precise wording he repeated it in a ministers' meeting in 1959 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which was simultaneously translated into the Spanish language. At that occasion he added the statement, "Not that I would be the forerunner, but the message was the forerunner!" The altered version, "As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Jesus Christ, vou are sent with a message to forerun the second coming." does not coincide with the original words of the commission. Whoever propagates it, perhaps does it with the intention to make people believe that with the ministry of Brother Branham the Work of God has come to its end. People neglect to see that the actual spreading of the message took place only after he went home.

All who are acquainted with the end-time message accept Bro. Branham's ministry for this last church age. To him it was given to reveal all the mysteries hidden in God's Word from Gen. 1 to the last chapter of the Book of Revelation. It is all included: the fall — the original sin in the Garden of Eden; the entire plan of salvation, also the teaching about the Godhead, water baptism, the LORD's supper, right to the Return of Christ. Not a single matter was excluded in his proclamation. But in his time the world only knew him as an evangelist, as a man of God with a special gift of healing as well as the gift of discernment and revelation. Only a few years before he went home, around the time of the opening of the seven seals, he was commissioned to store in the spiritual food. Not a single time did he say that he would be the one to also distribute that food. As with everything else, we also have to be careful and pay close attention to what exactly he said.

Also in my case, if I may be free to mention it, the ever true God gave me personally the commission by addressing me with His commanding, all-penetrating Voice. There is no need for me to repeat everything the LORD spoke at daybreak on April 2nd, 1962, as it is generally known. For Brother Branham to have confirmed this calling on December 3rd, 1962, in the

presence of the brethren Woods and Sothmann, the exact way it happened, repeating word for word in precise order, makes me for ever grateful. I am also grateful for the three brethren who had it upon their hearts to fly to the USA to verify my experience with the two witnesses, Fred Sothmann and Banks Woods. It was our Brother Detlef Mehnert, Bro. Di Prossimo from Belgium, and Bro. Didier from Paris. Without knowing when the time would be, I was especially listening to Bro. Branham's sermons preached from 1963 to 1965, as all his sermons were being sent to me since 1958. At the same time I searched the Scriptures to see if all things coincided with them.

Never did the thought occur to me that Brother Branham would be taken home before the time for me would come. In the contrary, I just took it for granted that his ministry would continue for the preparation of the Bride Church, until her completion. Strange but true, during the watch-night service on December 31st, 1965, which was attended by 120 believers, suddenly a prophecy was given with the statement, "My servant, I have put My sword into your hand!" I just could not believe it, as I remembered that the sword, which is God's Word, was placed into Brother Branham's hand. Not until January 5th, 1966, did the news reach us that Brother Branham was taken to glory on December 24th, 1965, after being involved in a traffic accident just six days earlier.

When arriving for the funeral service at cemetry in Jeffersonville at Easter time 1966, Rev. Pearry Green said, "Hi, Brother Frank, you know what we are here for?" My answer was, "Yes, because of Brother Branham's burial." He replied, "No, we expect the resurrection of the prophet!" After my arrival I was taken to the funeral home and was perhaps the last one to see the remains of the man of God before the coffin was finally closed. At the cemetery Rev. Pearry Green was singing with all the mourners, "Only believe, only believe ...", as it appeared he could not or would not stop singing. I only wept, I could not sing at all. I just did not understand what was going on. The conviction that Brother Branham was supposed to rise, I could not share. Of course, all who were present were very disappointed, because they were led into a false hope, and the burial had to take place. All who glorified William Branham instead of looking upon the LORD Jesus Christ were utterly disappointed. God permitted it, so His servant was taken home. HE shall never give His Glory to anyone and only what is promised in His Word is in His Will and can come to pass.

At the evening of the same burial day, after arriving at my hotel room, despite my grief a heavenly peace and unspeakable joy filled my soul. This time it was not a loud voice, but nevertheless very clear words the Spirit of God spoke in my heart, "Now your time to give out the food has come!" These words repeated themselves several times. The next day I called the brethren for a meeting: Billy Paul Branham, Pearry Green, Roy Borders, Lee Vayle, Roy Roberson, and of course Banks Woods and Fred Sothmann. I was the one who

suggested in this gathering that now the sermons of Brother Branham, which were only on tape, must be printed, so that we could use the printed version for translations into other languages. Brother Roy Borders was unanimously appointed for this task. In the following years I translated over 200 sermons into the German language and also saw to it that they were published in a number of other languages. I do two things, as I was commissioned: I preach the Word of God, going from city to city, and also give out the stored food, the way it is contained in the messages. Perhaps it should be pointed out once again, that the brethren in the USA expected the resurrection of the prophet. Utterly disappointed, every one, without exception, would have gone home and the world would have never heard about a message.

Facts are convincing

I succeeded in convincing Rev. Pearry Green, who was still shaken, that now another phase had begun. And because the brethren Woods and Sothmann confirmed what Brother Branham told me, he took courage and accepted my invitation to come to Europe and testify of what he had seen and experienced in Brother Branham's ministry. Right afterward in 1966/67 I arranged 35 meetings in six different European countries, where I preached and Brother Green gave his testimony. Since 1968 I also preached in all the Eastern European countries behind the iron curtain and then all around the world. According to God's foreknowledge and plan, the follow-up ministry given to me by the LORD took its course. That is the way the new beginning was made after the presumed ending.

The prophetic ministry had to be followed by a teaching ministry. The question arises, whether the food was given out at the right time, as the LORD Himself said in His Word, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ..." (Mt. 24:45-47; Lk. 12:42-44). The Bride Church is now living in this last part of the time of grace according to the divine order. We realise that God's revealed Word is now given to all the brethren who also give out the spiritual food in due season. This commandment is fulfilled directly before Mt. 25 takes place, so that the wise virgins are being prepared, they receive the Word of truth, are filled with the Holy Spirit and also sealed thereby. They are the ones who ultimately will make it to the marriage supper. Whosoever does not recognise this is still living in his own thoughts, outside of what God is presently doing. No one should think in his heart, "My Lord delayeth his coming ..." The LORD does not delay His promise, but first all Scripture must be fulfilled. There is always an exodus — a calling out — and also a going in to the promises of God.

The way of the New Testament Church is foreordained right to the end. Paul was not hesitant to speak about his calling and commission. For me it is

not that easy. But if this decisive moment has come, let it be done to the Glory of the LORD. The concern is the responsibility towards God, which has been laid upon me. There is no other preacher or ministry on earth that could claim to be directly connected by God's foreknowledge to the ministry of Brother Branham.

I have carried the true divine message throughout all these years into all the world. I preached Jesus Christ and proclaimed the Word, not the interpretations. The prophet of this generation I mention as I do Moses and Elijah, Peter and Paul. In my life and ministry there were high mountains and dark valleys. How could it be otherwise? As it was with our LORD, so are also His servants set for some to rise, for others to fall (Lk. 2:34-38); to some a sweet savour to life and to others a savour unto death (2. Cor. 2:14-17); for some I am called by the LORD to be a servant of Christ, to others a misleader of the Bride, a deceiver of men, even the antichrist in person, sitting on the combine.

What truly counts in the eyes of the elect is their own predestination and also that of a servant of God, which extends over his ministry and life (Rom. 8:28-39). Should then be fulfilled what our LORD said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword ..." (Mt. 10:34-36), then it is part of the chapter where the LORD sent out the twelve apostles. Wherever the sword penetrates, the division can go right through the family and the ones of his own household can turn into his enemies. It can also happen as with Job that only the ash heap remains. We have to consider the fact that all such attacks of the enemy are meant for destruction. Therefore, under the enemy's influence, reconciliation and forgiveness are being set aside, and hatred and enmity are being established.

If a servant experiences what his Master did, of Whom it is said that he was despised and rejected by men (Isa. 53), then one should be content. The scribes rejected our LORD, they used the most degrading titles; even after His resurrection they called Him a "deceiver" (Mt. 27:63). They said to Him, "We are not born in fornication." They accused Him, saying, "Thou art a Samaritan and hast a devil." The LORD addressed them, saying, "Why do ye not understand my speech?" HE also gave the answer, "Even because ye cannot hear my word." HE then told the religious Jews, "Ye are of your father the devil ... he was a murderer from the beginning" (Jn. 8). The spiritual conflict always takes place whenever God does something on earth. That is how it was in the days of Moses, and it was inflicted by those who also played a part in the worship service, but had the desire to be something special. Thus it was in the time of our LORD, and so is it now.

The special subject

It is God's intention to clarify each Bible subject by the Holy Scripture itself. The destructive endeavours of the enemy, who twists every word in every situation, are executed with the intention to bring about confusion. That state of uncertainty must be over for ever. By grace and the teachings accompanied with divine revelation we were taken out of all confusion. Every subject, whether it is the Godhead, Baptism, LORD's Supper, Return of Christ, Marriage, and so forth, was expounded clearly for all men of good will. No one — not even a preacher — knows the divine truth on his own. Even if one has all the references and all the quotations for a subject, we still do not know it, unless it is revealed. If we had already known all things, then the ministry of a prophet would have been sent in vain. God also would not have needed to appoint a servant. HE could have left each one of us where we had been. Revelation by the Holy Spirit, of course, is given only to those who humble themselves and acknowledge the ministries God placed into the Church and thereby submit themselves under God.

The apostle Paul was asked in a letter about this special subject (1. Cor. 7:1). And he replied to it. But what preceded it? That we find in chapter 5. Someone had taken his own stepmother for a wife. That was not only a sin and a transgression; that was something God had cursed. For so it is written, "Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife ..." (Dt. 27:20). For Paul to hand such a man over to Satan is not surprising, neither is his order for believers not to eat with that person at the same table. This meets our full consent. This man was guilty of fornication and of adultery. To that situation Heb. 13:4 applies, "Marriage is honourable in all and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Then the apostle continues in chapter 7, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (1. Cor. 7:2).

At the time of Jesus Christ the Pharisees were the ones to set a trap for Him. Who is asking now? Is it someone in need or does it simply happen to fuel the discussion? Very piously the scribes were asking, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" (Mt. 19:3). In Lk. 16:17-18 our LORD emphasises, speaking to the Pharisees, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one title of the law to fail." Then He comes to the point, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." In Mark 10:10-12 He gave the same answer to His disciples. The same matter is spoken of in the three gospels: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

The LORD unmistakably says in what way a husband is guilty in his own marriage, "That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." (Mt. 5:32). A man who divorces his wife without the biblical reason of fornication is guilty of the adultery his wife commits when she remarries. Although a man, as the following scriptures confirm, generally cannot break his own marriage by a personal act, he is still guilty of the adultery his wife commits in regards to their own marriage; when he wilfully divorces his wife he shall be held responsible for her remarriage.

Let the following scriptures serve as final clarification on the subject. Thus saith the LORD, "thou shalt not commit adultery ... thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife ..." (Ex. 20:14+17).

Thus saith the LORD, "And the man that <u>committeth adultery with another</u> <u>man's wife</u> ..." (Lev. 20:10).

Again thus saith the LORD, "If a man be found <u>lying with a woman married</u> to an husband ..." (Dt. 22:22).

In the Hebrew language there is one word for a woman and another for a married woman, just as we find in the English language "woman" and "wife". The original text in the following Scripture, like it is found in the German translation and others, should read "wife" and not "woman", "That whosoever looketh on a wife (woman) to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Mt. 5:28).

Not only Moses and the LORD Jesus, also the apostles Paul and Peter dealt with the subject of marriage. They pointed out the different roles of the man and of the woman. The Apostle Paul writes, for instance, that a married woman — even during the time of grace — is lawfully bound to her husband as long as he lives (Rom. 7:2-3; 1. Cor. 7:39). Then he states, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." (1. Cor. 7:10-11). The only exception is: "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases; but God has called us to peace." (1. Cor. 7:15).

In Eph. 5:21-33 and in 1. Tim. 2:11-15 he speaks in detail about husband and wife. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the LORD". The Apostle Peter very briefly, but very profoundly, expounded the same subject (1. Pet. 3:1-7). But nowhere do we find a summary in one single chapter. Thus it is ordained by God Almighty, so we need to search the Word of truth to find the Scriptures applicable to the actual case. One thing is certain: All who are in a desperate situation and ask with sincerity will receive the right answer from the LORD. Whoever has a different motivation assumes to know all things already, but will never come to know them right. We all should

work out our salvation in fear and trembling. Would it not be clean everywhere if all would sweep in front of their own doors? Everyone who is spared from the most terrible experience that can happen to a human being on earth should thank God daily on his knees.

Who would have ever thought that God has given the man specific rules to live by and also to the wife, which are binding for her? The roles must never be reversed, because they are set into a divine order. Under no circumstances can a wife assume authority over her husband (1. Tim. 2:11-15). It still remains the same, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God ... Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man." (1. Cor. 11:3-9). Preachers also could not make out this divine order, as they remained in the inherited tradition. Even Brother Branham admitted that he did not know it until the LORD revealed it to him.

Up till now there are still those in the message who find it hard to believe what the LORD so graciously revealed to His servant and prophet in harmony with the Old and the New Testament. There are those who derive from the exposition the absurd teaching of polygamy, the others remain imprisoned by old traditions. The subject is dealt with profoundly in the sermon "Marriage and divorce" and does not need further explanation. Only because of direct problems that were brought to my attention did I publish the brochure "Marriage — the ancient problem". Whoever is personally affected may read these expositions and apply also the Scriptures used here under prayer. Surely the LORD God will give the needed clarity from His Holy Word.

A comparison

Once again it needs to be pointed out that some brethren who are known internationally refer to Brother Branham and specialise in different topics, all the while not taking God's Word as the only absolute. It happens that the Bible is being put aside and only statements of Brother Branham are used, which they turn and twist to their own destruction, as it was done already in apostolic days (2. Pet. 3:16-18). Thus heresies are spread, for instance the assertion that the LORD already came in 1963. Others claim that Brother Branham will rise and have the tent ministry. Also the many teachings about seven-thunder-revelations and parousia and the numerous other issues are not in actual agreement with the teachings of Brother Branham nor with the Holy Scriptures. It is obvious that 2. Cor. 11:1-4 still applies in our time: On one hand the concern is the ministry of an apostle, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy ...", on the other hand there are those who preach another gospel and also another Jesus and are under the influence of another Spirit.

For this last phase the Apostle Paul predicts that men would rise <u>against</u> the <u>Truth</u>, not <u>against the prophet</u> like Jannes and Jambres. Whoever reads

the chapters 12 to 17 in Numbers will come to know the trials a man with a divine commission must endure. We would have never heard about Korah's rebellion, not about Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, if there had not been a divine calling and ordained ministry. These men were part of the church of Israel, they belonged to the Levitical priesthood, but rose up with different arguments against Moses and Aaron and thereby provoked the LORD (Num. 16).

The Apostle Paul writes about those who depart from the faith and give heed to seductive spirits and doctrines of demons (1. Tim. 4:1). He writes about Hymeneus and Philetus who erred from the truth, saving that the resurrection had already taken place. Their teaching was like a cancer and some were overthrown in their faith (2. Tim. 2:17-18). The Apostle James writes about those who strayed from the truth but could possibly be restored (Jas. 5:19-20). The Apostle Peter writes about false teachers who would introduce destructive heresies (2. Pet. 2:1). The Apostle John writes about those who went astray and "they went out from us" (1. Jn. 2:18-27). The Apostle Jude writes about the scoffers and mockers who caused splits, even though they had previously been feasting with the believers. Even in Revelation 2 we find mention of men who believed the teachings of Balaam and also those of the Nicolaitans. The woman Jezebel presented herself as a prophetess just to deceive the servants of God. But still the divine order remains, in spite of all these developments. God has placed in His Church apostles, not apostlesses; prophets not prophetesses; teachers not teacheresses; (1. Cor. 12) "... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-13).

What we experienced here in the Krefeld Mission Center on May 5th and 6th, 1979, when two men rose, as it was announced, to "cut off the tip of the tree" — referring to Brother Frank, Brother Russ, and Brother Schmidt — was a direct attack of the enemy against the church. Behind our backs these two men were instructed by two women, who were looked upon to be "prophetesses", to rise against the God-ordained servants. Thus Satan sneaked right onto the platform, so the Scripture might be fulfilled as Paul was prompted to predict in the Spirit about Jannes and Jambres. All who were with us during the seventies will for ever remember the special blessings we experienced in the presence of God. Then, however, when it was repeated, "... smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered", the destructive split went through the marriages, the families, and the church. Only God can mend this damage, by bringing in reconciliation and forgiveness and thereby dissolving enmity and hatred (Eph. 2:13-16).

Brother Leonhard Russ and Brother Paul Schmidt were called by the LORD with their first and last names to be ordained as elders in 1964, with the

consent of the whole church. By God's grace we have had the true Bible structure in the local church right from the very beginning. The same LORD Who commanded me on that Monday morning in 1962, when giving me the commission to go to other cities to preach His Word, but not to establish local churches anywhere else, the same LORD bid me on that Friday evening in 1964 to ordain Leonhard Russ and Paul Schmidt as elders in this local church. The Church of the LORD Jesus Christ is not the work of a man, but the work of God by grace. It is also written for our orientation, "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used." (Heb. 10:32-33).

That is the way it is, there is a negative part connected to the prophetic prediction for this last time period. Wherever the LORD builds His Church, Satan will try to bring in destruction. But the gates of hell shall not overcome the Church. Nevertheless, she remains on the spiritual battleground right to the end. The dragon stands before the woman to swallow the manchild as soon as he is born. But he shall be taken up to be in the marriage supper and thereafter to rule the nations with an iron rod (Rev. 12). The redeemed have been promised the victory of the Redeemer, they are the overcomers.

Right after the blow in the Krefeld church two brothers rose overseas, writing a letter that was sent out from Tucson to ministering brethren worldwide with the suggestion not to receive Brother Frank. Those who are under the same influence of the first destruction here at the base are men who rise within the message but actually are against the Word of truth. Of course they must rise especially against the one who carries the Word, so they can easily continue with their interpretations. Such men do not preach the Word, they constantly quote the prophet and decorate his tomb. But as it is written, "... for their folly shall be manifest unto all men ..." (2. Tim. 3:1-9).

During such trials the two seeds manifest their true nature. There are the ones who hate, and the others who are hated. Cain hated Abel, Ishmael despised Isaac, Esau was against Jacob, etc. Some betray, others are betrayed. Some blame, others are blamed. Some accuse, others are accused. The true children of God are born again because of the seed of the Word and they manifest the nature of the Redeemer in all their being. They cannot hate. In Gal. 4:28-29 we find the description of the true elect, described as the "children of promise", "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." The elect ones will never persecute others, in the contrary, they will pray for those who have become their enemies.

In Acts 13 the Apostle Paul was presenting God's plan of salvation to the Jews, who however rejected it. He also called them "despisers", referring to the prophetic Scripture of Hab. 1:5, "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." (Acts 13:41). The concern now is the final work God is doing among His own (Rom. 9:28). After speaking to the Jews the Apostle referred to Isa. 49:6, "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:47-48).

No one needs to wonder about it, it is now as it was back then; when despisers rise, that is the time the turning point comes and the everlasting Gospel is preached to those who have never heard it before. God in His grace has actually opened the doors in all the various denominations. Whenever a part of the plan of salvation is concerned, it will repeat itself. There are despisers among the people, they are responsible for general uprising and are actually against the LORD and His anointed. They are always dissatisfied and cause a disturbance. That is the actual trial wherein the spirits are separated. Every time the target is the one who carries the Word, he is made to appear unreliable, and also targeted are all the brethren who carry the same Word. Those who despise the divine commission and God's work wish to destruct, so that they can continue unhindered. They always search for mistakes with others, but mistakes are found with many of God's servants. There is no infallibility with a man of God — only supposedly with the Pope and all the small "popes". With a true man of God is found only the infallible Word of God that he carries. Therefore it is written, "... holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2. Pet. 1:21).

Prophets were called "gods" because of the divine substance of the Word, but they lived and died as humans (Ps. 82; Jn. 10:34-38). The Scripture cannot be broken, the LORD Himself said it in this connection. In any case God completes His work for the glorious day of the Return of Christ and all who are born of God have part in it. No one should think that God will be mocked and that heaven will be filled with despisers. The Apostle Peter writes of them, "Which have forsaken the right way..." So they were walking on it before. The Apostle continues to write, "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness..." (2. Pet. 2:15-21). If someone is sent and commissioned by God, then we are dealing directly with Him, are we not? To simply point to the past with reference to the prophet will not help anyone. The past is behind us. But it is like Brother Branham used to say, "Men always praise God for what He did, looking forward to what He will do and bypassing what He is presently doing!" If we do not wish to be distracted from what God is presently doing we must look forward more than ever before.

Verily, verily I say unto you ...

"He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me ..." The seriousness of this circular letter would not weigh heavily upon the scale if this exposition could not be compared with the apostolic writings. In Acts, chapter 9, chapter 22, and in chapter 26 we are told about the calling and the commission of the Apostle Paul. The heavenly call was the legitimation of his ministry and the authority for his epistles. He had the commission to lay out the whole plan of salvation (Acts 20:18-35). For this reason he introduced himself at the beginning of his writings as servant of Christ and as an Apostle. So we find it nine times even today from Rom. 1:1 to Tit. 1:1 in our Bibles, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ ...", "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ ..." Every time he addressed a church or a co-worker he introduced himself. Was it necessary, one could ask? Certainly, otherwise he would not have done it. God did not leave His Church to the arbitrariness of the evil-doers and their various teachings. HE has placed the ministries into the Church for the uplifting and strengthening of the believers (1. Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-16). Whoever separates from the Church disqualifies himself as a member of the Body of Christ, because he does not submit to Christ as the head. For ever valid remains as it is written, "For by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body" (1. Cor. 12:13).

The New Testament Church order is still in force and so are all things pertaining to the plan of salvation, which includes Israel. Being set apart by the direct calling, the Apostle Paul had an all-encompassing responsibility because of his commission. All prophets from Moses to Malachi were God-sent. John the Baptist was a man sent from God. The LORD Himself promised to send apostles and teachers (Mt. 23:34), and also emphasised the sending of His chosen servants in the New Testament. The LORD was concerned with the witnesses He chose (Acts 10:41). In Jn. 20:21 He therefore said, "... as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." In the Old and the New Testament God has sent His servants. Whoever received them actually received the LORD. And those who heard the Word from their mouths were actually receiving the Words of God. However, there always have been those who presumed to have a ministry, even though that was not really the case. The LORD therefore says, "Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD." (Jer. 23:21+32). It is very sad, but they are always coming on the scene among God's people. We therefore have the duty to ask everyone about his calling. Rev. 2:2 and 2. Cor. 11:13-15 must be applied. We have to verify what someone is preaching. We have to try the spirits. It is still written, "Prove all things!"

Would it be permitted to ask what the reaction would be, if I would put at the beginning of the circular letter the wording as the Apostle Paul did? "I,

Brother Frank, servant of the LORD and Apostle of Jesus Christ, ordained for the faith of God's elect ...!" Would not a storm sweep through the lands, would not the adversaries and despisers speak up? Would I not hear the words, "Arrogance! Presumption! Impudence!"? One would have to count on it to happen, especially by those who lead the split-off groups, which are headed by the despisers of God's work. If I should not be able to write according to the apostolic pattern, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." (1. Tim. 1:12), then I should not be writing at all. A divine mandate one receives only with the divine commission. I did not know about Mt. 24:45, never thought or preached about it — only after the LORD spoke it to me and commissioned me to give out the food. I did not know about Amos 8:11, about the famine the LORD would send to hear His Words. Brother Branham was the one who pointed out to me that God would send a famine to hear His Words and that the food would then be given out.

In church history books the various revivals are generally mentioned right up to the Pentecostal move, which started about a hundred years ago. Even the breakthrough of the healing revival after World War II is well recorded. Not only Robert Liardon but others also mention William Branham, recognising his special calling, commission, and gift of healing. Also Pater Cantalamessa, the high-ranking man in the Vatican who preaches to the Pope during lent, mentions in his article "The Century of the Holy Spirit" Mr. Pentecost, David Du Plessis, William Branham and his interpreter in Zurich at that time, Walter Hollenweger. But the question arises, who believes our report and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed (Isa. 53:1; Rom. 10:16-17)? Thereupon the reply can be given: Only those who believe the biblical message, to them the arm of the LORD will be revealed. They will see the right hand of God and experience the final victory.

Whoever believes according to the Scripture knows that God called and commissioned His servants. If the calling-out of the Bride church had been accomplished with the ministry of Brother Branham, then the rapture would have taken place and that would have been it. The fact is that all who wish to deceive themselves like to see it that way, although at that time they did not know where God dwells, perhaps they were not even born, let alone born again. To say it in simpicity, there are too many despisers and swindlers in the garment of humility who do not understand that the church must first be brought back to where she was at the very beginning. All who belong to the Bride Church must come back into step, meaning into the harmonious biblical order. All others will continue in their own conceptions until the day of their great disappointment, as they carry on in their own programs.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the LORD Jesus Christ, the day of grace is drawing to an end. The LORD gave us light at the evening time. We are moving into the midnight hour. The LORD is not slack with His promise. That we

believe. HE only waits until the last ones come to repentance and also the number of those belonging to the Bride Church are called out, separated, purified and cleansed. In the Lamb's Bride the seed of the Word must grow, so we can reach the fullness of the perfect stature in Christ. This can only happen if every individual respects and believes the whole Word of God and is sanctified in the Word of Truth. Only after the complete harmony of the Bride and Bridegroom is reached we shall see fulfilled,

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. ..." Maranatha: Come soon! "Even so, come LORD Jesus!"

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." (Rom. 16:25-27).

Current events

After Israel's Prime minister, Ariel Scharon, made his visit on the Temple Mountain on September 28th, 2000, the Intifada resumed its terrorist activities, more intensely than ever before. Since September 11th, 2001, the whole world came to know that every attack is directed against Israel, even if it is executed in a city thousands of kilometres away. In New York the Twin Towers crumbled and the lives of 3,000 human beings were extinguished in one blow. Of the nineteen hijackers who took charge of the aircrafts, fifteen were from Saudi Arabia, the home-country of Osama Bin Laden. It is the country of Mohammed with the two most important and holy Muslim cities, Mecca and Medina. Jerusalem was chosen as the third holy city — so it can be fulfilled that Jerusalem will become the burdensome stone for all nations (Zech. 12:3).

Why the U.S.-President, Mr. Bush, chose Saddam Hussein and Iraq, the country with the two rivers Euphrates and Tigris, to settle his account, can only be explained from the viewpoint of Bible prophecy. Before the attack took place, the world witnessed the face-to-face conversations between the Pope and the second man in charge in Iraq, Mr. Tarik Aziz, intended to avoid a possible war under all circumstances. Behind the scenes, the high-ranking diplomat of the Vatican, the French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, had talks in Baghdad, in order to get Saddam Hussein to step down and leave the country. At about the same time negotiations went on with Muhammar al Gaddafi in Lybia about where Saddam Hussein should find his new domicile. The agreement was that no attack should take place until Saddam Hussein was safely placed somewhere. President Bush gave him 48 hours to leave his country, Iraq, before the attack took place. Later the big search for Saddam was launched!

According to Rev. 9:13-21 the four judgment angels are bound at the Euphrates River until the day and the hour arrive. The "holy war" is to be right at the beginning of the "Day of the LORD" (Joel 3:11-17), and that day certainly is very close. In that connection we are told, "the sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining, the LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel." That is the moment when the LORD as the Angel of the Covenant shall come down and roar like a lion (Rev. 10), as predicted in Jer. 25:30-33, Hos. 11:8-11, and Amos 1:3.

On account of his actions, the American president is responsible for turning the entire Arab and Muslim world, and also the rest of the nations, even more against Israel now. With utter dismay we received the news about the bombings on November 18th, 2003, in the European part of Turkey, in the city of Istanbul, when two Jewish synagogues were blown up. It is an incomprehensible hatred, that neither respects human life nor religious buildings, as the terrorists choose their targets. That is how it has been since the days of Ishmael and Isaac, and sadly it shall remain this way right to the very end, upon which, of course, a new glorious beginning shall follow. With all soberness and renewed emphasis we need to point out that the return of our LORD must be imminent, for we already see the preparation of the things which will take place after the Rapture. With all these things happening, we understand with increasing clarity that Bible prophecies are now being fulfilled.

Many thanks

With all my heart I would like to thank all those who stand behind the work of God with their prayers. Special thanks go to the faithful who give their tithes and offerings into the storehouse, so the food can be given out (Mal. 3). We are serving God's people in over 140 countries. As far as we know this is the only missionary work on earth which sends out all the materials free of charge. This includes all books and brochures. Cassettes and videos, CDs and DVDs are only sent out to ministers.

To all the brethren who share in the spreading of the original revealed Word worldwide in the same Spirit of the LORD I herewith wish to express my gratitude. We are also thankful to God and do appreciate it very much to have the possibilities to share the Word of God over the internet and via a number of TV-stations in various locations, with the ability to transmit world-wide. Almost daily we are receiving e-mails and letters from people who came in contact with the end-time message for the first time. Just on the day we randomly chose for a tally, November 17th, we counted 43 e-mails, besides the pile of letters that we also received. We therefore ask for understanding, if

some are disappointed because their letters or e-mails were not replied to. We apologise for that, but it is simply not possible to respond to each one. Any requests for literature will certainly be taken care of as soon as possible.

With great expectations we are moving into the year 2004 and acknowledge that the LORD in His love and grace is only waiting for the last ones to be called out. With all my heart I wish all of you, beloved in the LORD, God's richest blessings in your soul, spirit, and body, in every realm of your lives.

Br. Fromk

By His commission

Appendix

After reading the manuscript in its entirety, I decided to include the quotations of Brother Branham pertaining to the subject of the »food«, so that all might receive a better understanding of the calling and ministry.

It is very significant that the first time Brother Branham speaks about the storing in of the food is on April $1^{\rm st}$, 1962. With God and His Kingdom there are no coincidences. Brother Branham saw in a vision that he was carrying big barrels of natural food items, which he listed individually, into the tabernacle. At just about the same time, before sunrise on April $2^{\rm nd}$, 1962, the LORD spoke to me and named exactly the same groceries, which led us to put natural food in store.

Now a few quotes of Brother Branham, "HE said, 'Store in plenty of it ... Go back and store up food!' ... And here's where the food being stored up ... HE'll direct everything just exactly to its course. That's the reason He sent me back to do this. 'Store up the food here!' HE forbid me to go overseas ... A voice said to me, 'Bring in food. Store it in!' ... Do you remember now the vision? ... I was supposed to go to Zurich, Switzerland, with Brother Arganbright ... I told the brethren before it happened, 'I will not go!'"

In prayer Brother Branham said, "Just awhile ago when you showed the vision of this little tabernacle here ... but to store up food that there would come a time when this would all be needed ... But You said, 'Store up this food here for the time.' LORD, reverently I have tried to do that."

For ever etched into my memory is the THUS SAITH THE LORD that was addressed to me, "My servant, your time for this city will soon be over. I will send you to other cities to preach My Word."

I replied, "LORD, they will not hear me, they do have all things in plenty, they live in abundance and are not ready to listen."

Thereupon the LORD spoke again, "My servant, the time will come when they will hear you. Store in food and groceries, for a great famine is coming. Then thou shalt stand amidst the people to give out the food."

But no famine came and therefore I fell into great despair. I had announced the famine in the church and was no longer willing to preach. I asked the LORD to give me an answer. With the last hope of receiving my answer I finally decided to fly to the USA and to speak with Brother Branham, because I knew that God was showing and revealing things to him.

At the end of November I made the trip. On December 3rd, 1962, I met with Brother Branham. Without being previously told, he actually repeated word for word what the LORD had spoken to me on April 2nd. He then said, "Brother Frank, you misunderstood what the LORD has spoken to you and you have put natural groceries in store. God will send a famine to hear His Word and the food that you are to put in store is the promised Word for this age which God has revealed and is kept in the messages which are on tapes."

Only then, after pausing for just a moment, Brother Branham said, "Brother Frank, wait with the giving out of the food until you get the rest of it."

This part I did not understand, but I obeyed and all the tapes were stored here in Krefeld as well. When the time was fulfilled, they were translated, duplicated, and printed. My father was fluent in four languages, so I grew up with multiple languages. Later in life I picked up others as well. In the Krefeld Mission Center we have all the languages needed for translations.

Beloved brothers and sisters, dear friends, think about it and reflect on the thought: Brother Branham saw himself in a vision, putting large barrels of different kinds of food in store. But with that being accomplished the food was not yet served at the LORD's table. It was only stored in until the time of the spiritual famine would come. Within the true Church of Jesus Christ the following is now being fulfilled: Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word as it came forth from the Mouth of the Almighty. The full Word was preserved for the time of the famine. He that has an ear, let him hear.

When this ministry started, the food was not poured out by the basketful here and there, but rather was correctly proportioned according to the Word and was given out as a full-course meal in every sermon worldwide, to satisfy those who hunger and thirst for God.

There is no way anyone could bypass God. Also a calling and commission cannot be bypassed without suffering the consequences!

Whoever thinks to have the right to handle the Word – the message of the hour according to his own discretion — and all know what kind of confusion this has led to within the message — blasphemes God and despises His counsel. Remember what the prophet said, "Doing God a service without it being His will …"

All may judge for themselves if they can stand without condemnation in the presence of God. It weighed heavy upon me to say this for the sake of the elect. Maybe the time has come for some to make the **right** decision. It is not too late for correction as long as we are still in the time of grace. Now everyone knows that I do not have the need to invent something subsequently. The direct quotes from the lips of Brother Branham confirm that everything was foretold before it came to pass. At the same time I am aware of the fact that all who have decided not to believe will not consider what is being said, be it by witnesses, or even if someone rose from the dead (Lk. 16:30-31). They cannot believe, their personal pride will not permit it. I only confirm once again in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ that my testimony is just as true as the testimony of the Apostle Paul and the one of the Prophet William Branham. God Himself has confirmed it throughout all the past years and the whole earth is a witness thereof. Thank you for letting me be of service to you in the name of the LORD.

Special anniversary meetings April 3rd and April 4th, 2004

Should the LORD tarry we would like to have three special meetings on the first weekend in April 2004, Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon.

It was forty years ago in 1964, when I made my first trip to the Lebanon, Israel, and India, but with these planned meetings we would like to commemorate, with gratitude, the inauguration of the church building thirty years ago here at the Mission Center in Krefeld.

It was at the beginning of April 1974 when we were able to dedicate this place of worship to Almighty God for the blessing His people. From over thirty countries visitors have been with us to hear the Word of God. Usually our meetings on the first weekend of every month are simultaneously translated into twelve different languages. The God of heaven has in His work abundantly exceeded anything that we could ever have asked or hoped for. His name is to be glorified and magnified for ever and ever.

For this great event we should like to extend the direct invitation to all brethren worldwide who share in the international ministries.

With this I would like to offer a special invitation to Rev. Pearry Green to be with us during that time, and also to all the brothers on the North American continent and, of course, from all over the world.

It would also be much appreciated if Billy Paul and Joseph Branham, and also Brother George Smith could be with us during that time.

Together we shall pray that the will of God be done on earth as it is in heaven. We want to make sure, above all, that our dear LORD Jesus Christ is invited to be with us.

All who can pay for their own trip are welcome. On account of past experiences and disappointments we have to clearly state that we simply cannot send tickets to hundreds of ministers in the various countries who might not be able to pay their fare. They will simply have to be content with the videos that will be sent to them. Thank you very much for your understanding.