

DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACING SERIES

COUNT DOWN TO RAPTURE AND SIGNS IN THE SKY

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Matthew 16:1-4, "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

2 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

Hebrews 9:23, "It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Jesus, when He spoke to "a wicked and adulterous generation" said you won't have any sign but the sign of Jonah. But, not so with His Bride. They will not be in darkness. We will know where we are by "the patterns of things in the heavens."

The Scripture says there will be patterns of things to come in the Heavens.

1 Thess. 5: 1-11, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in

darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

In these verses, the Holy Ghost speaks to the Lost, the Foolish Virgins, and the Bride. A Prophet came and told us to watch for signs in the sky.

Let's see if the Lord will show us what some of the signs are we should look for!

In September of 1962, Brother Branham preached the message "Count Down" in Jeffersonville. It was a count down for the Bride's Rapture. The title of the sermon has to do with the signal given for the launching of a space craft. The message "Count Down" was preached to show the Bride how God has put signs on *Earth*

and in the *sky* to show us by types how the church has grown spiritually through the years and where we are now in God's Time Clock.

As travel on the earth and in the sky has increased in knowledge and power, it has typed the spiritual growth of the Church (Bride) in revelation knowledge and power. This is an amazing thing, as we are studying it and see that Brother Branham has shown this type reaching all the way to Rapture time.

From this message Count Down, we can see that our Lord wants us to know where we stand today in His time schedule!

1 Thess. 5:1-6, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

The Scripture tells us to watch all signs and stay awake concerning what our God is doing, because He wants to share His secrets with His Bride. One

of the great secrets that we as Bride are looking for is the time of the Resurrection and Rapture.

“Will God do anything except He first reveals it to His servants the prophets?” (Amos 3:7) We believe the Lord wants us to know “The Season” of the Rapture and perhaps more than that! The types in the sermon Count Down were given to show us the season and we believe we are in it now!

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 5, “Now things that were made were made of things that do not appear. Now I have learned through all these years that all things that are natural are types of spiritual things, everything that is in the natural (types something in the spiritual realm) and now just remember, that when you see anything in the natural it is typifying a spiritual thing....the natural then has reflected the spiritual.” (End of quote)

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 7, “So, and if that is so, which I believe it is, then everything that’s happening on Earth is a type of spiritual things that’s happening.” (End of quote)

Our motive in this sermon is to point out the Prophet’s teaching of the types seen in the natural realm, which will show us how close God has brought His Bride Church to the Resurrection and Rapture. As we will see, we are in the very end of the End-time days and ready to take our place in the Heavenly Places at the Wedding Supper!

We will let the Prophet tell us how man’s scientific progress has actually been God’s way of showing His Bride where we are now spiritually and how close we are to leaving.

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 12, “Now, let’s just take the achievements now that we’ve been able to do in the last few years. Now, let’s start on something that’s happened. I won’t keep you long, the Lord willing, but I want you to see this quickly. And, oh, when it come to me, I felt like flying away. Now notice, now, a few years

ago the transportation was by horse and buggy, not too far ago, long ago. I done my driving around in a horse and buggy, and on a saddle. When I was a boy, fifteen years old, sixteen, I rode a horse, and I went to town in a horse and buggy, driving right by this church here, a muddy road out there, and a swamp here full of weeds as high as the building, almost, of with a horse and wagon, delivering butterbeans and things off the farm.

Now, the horse and buggy days was who? That was the ending of the Lutheran age. See, horse and buggy days. They believed in Justification. God bringing the Church from Romanism, Catholicism, He brought it into its first spiritual achievement, that “The just shall live by faith.” That was the horse and buggy day, as they come from the—the to the horse and buggy days, and ended.

Now, the next achievement man had in the way of transportation was the automobile. And, you notice, that automobile increases all the time, in its power.

Now, at the end of the Wesley age, brought in by spiritual achievement, Sanctification, which means the Church raised from a justified state to a sanctified state.” (End of quote)

Can we see the natural types here? Man’s mode of transportation, which was horse and buggy, showed God bringing His True Church from the false teachings of Rome to the spiritual place of Justification. The achievement of hooking a horse to a buggy for transportation was God’s type of a great spiritual achievement, which was Luther’s revelation of being justified by faith! Then came the automobile, which was God’s earthly type of Wesley’s message of Sanctification! God used science, which is of man, to show what He is doing in the spiritual realm, in the way of preparing His Bride for the Rapture! Please don’t lay this sermon aside until you see and understand the last great end-time sign

that shows that we are due NOW to leave in the Rapture. God has given us many signs to watch for, as we wait to be caught up. We are to watch Russia; we are to watch Israel for it is God’s Time Clock. We have watched the nation of Israel being formed! We have now seen the nations of the world, including the United States, working to force Israel to give up Her God-given land! This program is contrary to God’s Word and will not turn out well. We have seen these things, but somehow this writer has been missing this great sign in the sky, which is our leaving time as typed with man’s scientific progress.

Let’s follow Brother Branham’s teaching of the types on the End. I believe we will be surprised and thrilled! I believe it will give us hope and faith to finish our race. After the horse and buggy came the automobile. After the automobile had gained in knowledge and power, the airplane came into being. In 1903, the Wright brothers designed their first aircraft, a small bi-plane glider.

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 13, “The airplane typed the Church’s advance spiritually to Pentecost. God was showing His signs in the sky and typing it with the steady growth of His Bride.” (End of quote)

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 12, “And then the airplane day came along, that went from the earth into the air. Now, if you’ll watch, as sure as that achievement was by science, if the person will have a spiritual mind and understand, it represented achievement of God’s economy with His Church.” (End of quote)

The types in the sky and on the earth were shown before the spiritual event that it typed happened in the church. In 1903, man took to the air, then in 1904-1906 God poured out the Holy Ghost on Azusa Street in Lost Angles, California.

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 13-14, “And then along come Pente-

cost. And as science of the world was able to achieve an—an automobile motor, (the Wright Brothers that created or made manufactured, rather, the airplane) the flying machine was far above the car on the earth, because he took to the air. Now, the Wright Brothers, through their achievement, was able to take science and pattern something here on Earth, to show that there was a great spiritual thing fixing to happen. And when the Wright Brothers was able to achieve to get a man's feet off the ground, Pentecost fell and took to the air with a spiritual gift, with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. He took to the air! Oh, hallelujah! Got his feet off the ground so he could—he could swim around, got up in the air! Oh, how far he was above the horse and buggy! How far he was above the automobile! He was up in the air. He was knocking and puffing and banging, but he was flying. See, what man achieves on Earth, for they're made of things which do not appear. God was able to achieve something by a Spirit-filled people who were hungering and thirsting, and those that would stay with the Word." (End of quote)

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 15, "The automobile was a higher form of transportation than the horse, and the airplane was a higher form of transportation than the automobile, but they accompanied one another. Horse power! Amen! If that's horse power, what about God power? What about the Holy Ghost and power? The Holy Ghost power that can justify you, the same Holy Ghost power can sanctify you. The same Holy Ghost power that sanctified you can fill you with His Presence. And little science, that didn't know their ABC's, found it. Why? They were spiritual scientists. Amen. They seen the thing, they believed it. Man did it by education, the natural scientist. The spiritual scientist done it by revelation. One by education, the other by revelation. Oh, if we can just open up. There's all kinds of material

laying here. That's right." (End of quote)

But the Signs in the sky have now gone far past the days of the prop driven airplane, and even the jet plane! Showing that God's Bride has now advanced much further spiritually than the days of Pentecost in 1906!

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 15, "Now, now the Pentecostal age, for the last fifty years, has sent a revival around the world, with all kinds of everything in it. And they have had healings, and sickness being healed, cripples healed, blind had their sight restored to them. Do you think the world believed it? No, sir. They didn't believe Luther. They didn't believe Wesley. They didn't believe the Pentecostals. But God took the Bible and proved to it that It was right. Amen. Now we got to remember that, we got to believe it, seeing those things were a type. Now we've lived up the Pentecostal age. The Pentecostal age, as I have proved over there, goes out into Laodicean age.

But now something else has happened. We got an astronaut now; John Glenn (Br. Branham meant Alan Shepard) was our first astronaut. And we find out that that's so far above the airplane, airplane can only go as far as its pressure and so forth. But this is by an atomic power, a greater power that presses him so much higher than an airplane, an airplane even—even isn't in it. That's right, He's been able to do that. All right. Now we got an astronaut, natural age." (End of quote)

Now remember, the Prophet is using these natural types to show us where the Bride is today, as far as the time of our departure in the Rapture. What we will see in the rest of his sermon, "Count Down" is most amazing! We will be made to wonder why the Bride has not already been taken up! According to the types, the signs on Earth, and in the sky, the Bride is ready to go up at any moment! God has shown it in His great types.

QUOTE: COUNT DOWN, PAGE 16, "Science has been able to prove that there's an astronaut that can go so far till you couldn't see it with your natural eyes, and it can go whether there's any pressure there or not. He can just go on out because in a pressurized tank, and he can go up there and sail around and see the worlds around. An astronaut! Oh, my, what an age that that is coming. Yes sir, go beyond any natural things at all, and sweep plumb on out into yonder.

What does it represent? A spiritual age, a spiritual time to where God's going to have spiritual astronauts. Amen! They're here right now! Hallelujah! The eagles of the air that can go beyond any other bird sail above everything, spiritual astronauts (glory) that can take the Word of God and prove that He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. A spiritual astronaut! Oh, my! Glory! That makes me feel good, living in this age! Now what a wonderful thing for a spiritual astronaut! See? What is it? What did the natural scientists do? Has been able to achieve that. And God, through man who would stay with the Bible and say that "He's the same yesterday, today, and forever." And not afraid of the promise regardless of what anybody said, stay with it. What is it? You become in an astronaut that can go so far it's beyond denominational thinking. It's beyond anything else. It's beyond the things of the church. Out yonder with God and Him alone you stay. Astronauts!" (End of quote)

Yes, the signs shown by science show that the Bride will leave at any moment. Pray up, look up, stand up, we're going up, probably this year.

Many of the prophecies that we think must happen before we go up, will perhaps happen after we go up! Notice this, Bride of Christ; men have been in space a number of years now, setting on a space platform, actually sitting in Heavenly Places, clearly showing by God's types that His Bride

is ready at any moment to leave Earth to sit in Heavenly Places at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

In June of 1971, the Soviets launched a space station proving that man could live in space for long periods of time. For 24 days their three man crew lived on the space platform. Later, they were killed on the flight back to Earth. But, the type had been shown. Man in his new spiritual body was very soon to go to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! We are now some 30 years past the time of 1971, when God showed by scientific progress what He is about to do with His Spiritual Bride, which is to take her up.

In our May 2009 sermon, we spoke on Tested Before Adoption. We have turned what this writer believes is the last corner before our Lord takes us up. In the Seven Church Ages, our God has caused His Bride to turn corners, which amounts to a steady growth spiritually. We have come from Catholicism to Justification, from Justification to Sanctification, from Sanctification to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. But we have now turned the corner toward *Adoption*. This turn has to do with the actual perfection of our character. We are now seeing flaws in ourselves that we didn't even know was there! We see fear, and unbelief. We see greed and selfishness, as God's powerful Light is shined on us. Our eyes are being opened to see ourselves as God sees us. He is breaking our hearts as we are being made to see ourselves as we really are in our flesh. Just as the Lord led the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness trying them greatly to show them what was in their hearts, not to harm them, but to help them, so has He led His present day Bride for 44 years since our Prophet was taken home.

There was a great separation of people in Moses' day, and so is there being a great separation of people in our day. Again our God is leading a modern day Bride through great trials, not to destroy us, but because He loves us and will cause us to discover the defects in ourselves. Yes, the trials are great, tears are flowing, hearts are broken, minds are perplexed, many are wondering what we have done wrong to cause such treatment from a God that we have believed loves us. Take courage little flock; He only hides Himself from us for a moment. It is not wrong for our Lord to lead us through dry places. He promised to try us. If it was wrong for Him to do this to us, then much of the Bible gives indication that God did His Chosen Ones wrong. But not so. He has never wronged any man and never will! He watches over us. He wants a Bride who will trust Him and serve Him no matter the circumstances that He leads us through. He is ordering our steps. There is coming a day when the words that come from our mouth will be His words, or we will keep still.

Yes, He is controlling every trial, its timing, its duration, and its hardness. As gold is refined in the furnace, so is the purifying of His End-Time Bride.

Recently, in a time of great trial, when Jesus led me back down memory lane and I was in great despair over my past life and also what I was being shown about my present state of imperfection, the Holy Ghost in me began to reveal God's love for me. I could almost feel His arms around me, and His great love broke me down to weeping.

Do we understand that the trials prove His Love for us? He knows it takes suffering to open our eyes of compassion for others. It takes suffer-

ing so that He can prove His love for us by delivering us from the suffering.

I heard the following story that sets forth what the Bride is presently going through. A man had a vision of three Christians who were going through times of trial. They were all three on their knees in desperate prayer. Jesus walked up to them and stopped at the first man. He stayed with him for quite a while speaking to him and comforting him before He went to the second man. He placed his hand on the second man's head briefly, and passed on to the third man. But He didn't stop at the third man. He only smiled at him and passed on. One would suppose that the first man was the most spiritual of the three and the second man less spiritual than the first. It appears to the observer that the third man was not spiritual at all, so the Lord passed on with out stopping to talk with him, but only smiles. But upon receiving the revelation of the vision, he understood that the first man was the weakest of the three and needed more help with his faith during his trials. The second man was somewhat stronger and only needed a little help with his faith. The third man was the strongest of the three and he was passing every test and praising His God through every trial. I was made to wonder which category I was in and concluded that I am in the first man's spiritual place and need to move on over to the third man's place. However, we all start out in the first man's place and only God can put us in the third position and He does it through trials, tribulations and suffering. Can we believe it and trust Him anyway? Amen.

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