

<u>Matthew 16:13-17</u>, "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? WHO DO YOU SAY THIS IS?

## By C.W. Wood

## August 2009

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

In 1964, Br. Branham preached a sermon entitled, "Who Do You Say This Is?" His Text was <u>Matt. 21:10-11</u>, "And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

Two thousand years ago, there was a question asked by the Lord Jesus, "Whom do men (of the world) say that I, the Son of Man, am?" The multitude answered, "The Prophet of Nazareth." But, He was more than a prophet! What a question! The lives of those He spoke to in that day depended on the answer to His question. There He stood, a man, perhaps dressed as His Disciples were, eating and drinking with them, growing tired as they did, hungering as they did, needing rest as they did, and suffering many of the same things they did....yet, He was also God! A man as they were, except for one thing only, He had no sin! He was virgin born not of Adam's blood.

And so, He questioned all men as to who He was, then more personally, He questioned His disciples, "But whom say ye that I am?" (Matt. 16:15) Peter, having had a revelation from God, answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter saw that this man was God, The Christ, and The Messiah! Though He looked as they did, walked as they did, dressed as they did, yet He was God in human flesh! Jesus was both God and man!

What a puzzle this is to our natural mind! But it is true. Jesus was "The Son of Man, born of a woman, with no sex involved, which made Him our "Kinsman Redeemer." God cannot die, but the man part of our God did die! But the God part rose on the third day. Don't reason about it, simple believe it.

Br. Branham's motive in preaching the sermon called "Who Do You Say This Is?" was to ask us the same question that the Lord had asked 2000 years ago. Who do we today say this was who came down Sunset Mountain and on brought Seven Angels with Him? Whose Voice was it that sounded as thunder through those Seven Theophany-bodied Angels? Who was it that entered into the flesh body of a man, a prophet, and opened the Seven Sealed Mysteries? (No man was worthy. Rev. 5:4)

To give the answer, it was the same Jesus Christ that questioned His Disciples 2000 years ago, "Who do men say I am?" Brother Branham, speaking for Jesus some 2000 years later in a message called "Who do you say this is?" asked this generation, "Who do *you* say it was that ministered through a man, performing the same works that He did 2000 years ago?

Over and over our Prophet said, "I am not the Son of Man,

the hour glass! Your destiny hinges on your answer to the question, "Who do you say this was, that came down in the huge cloud in Arizona? It was Christ in a man again!

John 8:24, "Except you believe I am He, you shall die in your sins."

<u>II</u> John, Verse 7, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Let me quote <u>Matt. 16:13-16</u> again, ".....whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

14 Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith to them, but Whom say ye that I am?

16 Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Can you see Jesus Christ in a sex-born man, working His works again on Earth? Can you, who believe that Br. Branham was Deity, bow your heads and repent, and give glory to our Creator? To worship a sex-born man as Deity is to belong to a cult, and bring reproach onto the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can never leave out the Scripture in <u>Amos 3:7</u>, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but (before) He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."

Now, put the Scripture in <u>Heb. 13:8</u> with the above Scripture and we can know that God is still revealing things to his modern day Prophets! It is

God's method of restoring His back-slidden Church in every church age. The sad thing is that, as always in the past, the church without the Holy Ghost has rejected God's chosen way, and refused His last day Prophet. As Bride members, we are duty-bound to love those people, and pray for them to receive a Prophet's rewards who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet. (Matt. 10:41)

Now, a brief look at how very close we are to the Resurrection and Rapture. Not too long ago I was reading the fourth chapter in Malachi and I saw something I had not seen before. How often that happens as we search the Scriptures! God does not see fit to give us His revelations all at the same time.

What I saw was in verses five and six, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the Earth with a curse." Our Prophet's public ministry, or the Third Pull Ministry, started in 1963 when the Seven Seals were opened, Mysteries were and the revealed. Now, according to Verse 6, if God had not chosen to send our Prophet, William Branham, He would have had to "smite the Earth with a curse."

The world had, at that time, filled the Cup of Iniquity and God would have been lawful in starting **"The great and dreadful day of the Lord!"** This great and dreadful day is the Tribulation, and the Earth had earned the curse at that time. But God, in His Grace and Mercy, did send us a prophet, and held off the curse until His Prophet had preached His Message of Restoration.

This amounted to Brother Branham repeating the truths that the Apostle Paul had preached! With God's Message having been repeated (finished) our beloved Prophet was taken off the earthly scene. He has been gone 44 years. We can see that we are now blending into "The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord." The Prophet said that one age does not chop off and another one start the next day, but rather one blends into another. The Day of the Gentiles is ending and we are blending into Tribulation. But as we know, the Bride does not enter into the full-blown time of Tribulation. How close are we then to the Resurrection and Rapture?

We say by the Scriptures and by the word of a Prophet, that <u>Matt. 17:10-11</u> has been fulfilled. The two Prophets mentioned in this verse have already come; it is history. John the Baptist was there 2000 years ago and now, in our day, the Elijah that Jesus declared <u>shall first come</u> and <u>restore</u> all things has come and gone.

John the Baptist was the first one, he was there at the time Jesus made the above statement. Now, some 2000 years later another man with the spirit of I am only a son of man! I was only standing close by when He did these things!"

The ministry of Christ was repeated through this man with one reason being so that we would believe the End-Time Message that God gave him. We would know that God came down in a man once again. So with God's Prophet having been gone for about 44 years, we ask the question still, "Who do you say it was that came inanother flesh-man to and performed works that no man can do? We say, by the Word of the Lord, that it was Jesus Christ, himself, in the Spiritual form, who posed to have His picture taken by a secular press over Sunset Mountain. We have it, as it was earlier painted by the artist Hoffman.

There has been a Coming of the Lord, before Rapture, that most of the world has missed. A Spiritual Coming, but very real! Again our Lord would have the question asked, "Who do you say this is that raised the dead, forgave sin, spoke a storm out of existence, created squirrels where there was no squirrels? Was it God or a man? Who do you personally say it was? It was God in a man, not Deity, but doing works that no man can do! It was God in flesh again. It was God in a man, repeating His ministry on Earth so as to show His Bride which man had the true, End-Time Message.

The question confronts the human race today! "Who do you say it was that performed the great miracles around the

world? In Jesus' day, the Jews said, "He hast a Devil." (John 8:48) King Herod called Him John the Baptist who has risen from the dead. (Mark 6:14) But He was more than that. Strange as it may seem to some, the Devil in Luke 4:34 knew who Jesus was, "I know thee, who thou art, the Holy One of God." The Devil was looking at a man, who was in a body like other men (except for His blood) and the Devil knew who He was "The Holy One of God." (Luke 4:34)

Today, another man has come, the Prophet William Branham. He was not Deity, but sex-born, but Deity dwelt in him! Who do we say this man (Prophet) was? Was he Deity? No, clearly not! Who was the one who entered into this sex-born Prophet's body and worked so powerfully through him? Was it Jesus Christ, the Messiah? Most clearly it was!

It was the Coming of Christ in a man again. The man was not Deity, but the Christ in him proved Himself thousands of times! Thus the Scriptures in Luke 17:22-30 have been fulfilled; a Coming of Christ before the Rapture, when the spiritual temperature was again as it was in Noah's day, and in Lot's day.

This was the Sunset Mountain Coming of Jesus that started the Rapture, as seen in I <u>Thess. 4:16</u>, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

The first stage of the Rapture started in 1963 when the Seven Angels gave the revelation of the Seven Seals to the Prophet and he preached the Mysteries.

<u>Verse 16</u> of the above Scripture called this message, "A Shout". We are now waiting for the second stage, which will be "The Voice of the arch angel" calling the bodies of the Bride out of the grave. The third stage will follow closely behind the second stage. The Trumpet will sound, the Lord will appear in a cloud and call the Bride, both dead and alive, up to meet Him in the air.

And so, we believe that the Holy Ghost is asking the question on Earth again, "Who do you say this was who came down in His Prophet and brought the restoration of the truths that Paul preached?" Was Br. William Branham an imposter, a false prophet, or was our Christ in him, come to bring His Bride back to the Word that Paul had preached? "Who do men say this man was, and more personally, who do you say he was?

As of today August 30, 2009, there is still time to investigate, but time is fast running out with only a few grains of sand left in Elijah on him has come and been gone 44 years! It is Resurrection and Rapture time! The door is closing to the Gentiles and opening again to the Jews. The separation of the Bride from their loved ones gone on is almost over, praise His Name!

QUOTE: THE IDENTIFIED CHRIST OF ALL AGES, TOPEKA, KANSAS, 64-0617, "The Presence of Jesus Christ, which ought to illuminate the church, to know that in this last days where creeds and denominations and isms and everything has got the - the Word all smothered out, and Jesus the Word on the outside of the Church, and you see Him come right back among the people and identify Himself as He promised, "in the last days when the Son of Man is being revealed." He was revealed in the baptism; He was revealed in Divine Healing; here He is in His last attribute. Remember, that was the last thing that Abraham saw before the fire fell and judged the Gentile world, and before the promised son came on the scene, Isaac. This is the last thing that the Christian Church will see, in the sign of miracle, until the appearing of Jesus Christ. If God has give me favor before you, believe me in the Name of the Lord, there is nothing else left in the Bible to be done but take on the Mark of the Beast; and you have the Seal of God (The Bride has the Seal of God). Amen.

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