THE SEVEN SEALS

by Pastor Steven L. Shelley
THE REVELATION OF THE FIFTH SEAL

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Turn with me in your Bibles, if you will. We’re getting started early.

Revelation, chapter 6.

We welcome all the saints of God who are listening in on the telephone hookup. Just pray the Lord will bless them as well.

Revelation, chapter 6, verse 9.

\[\text{And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?}\]
And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; (Revelation 6:9-12)

Father, we thank You tonight for the reading of Your Word. We thank You for the way that You ever attend to Your children. We thank You for Your divine protection that covers us in this dangerous world we live in. We thank You that You have redeemed us, justified us by faith, cleansed us by Your blood, sanctified us by the washing of the water of the Word. We thank You that You’ve loved us enough, that You’ve filled us with the very Spirit that was in You with that walking, talking Holy Ghost. And we thank You that You have called us to this hour to be a witness of the great things that You have done, and are doing, and will do in the earth.

And now, I am still amazed at how the enemy has opposed the preaching of these simple little things. It has been a tremendous battle to bring them even though they’re just simple. Great things have come in every service, it seems, to distract. But I pray, oh God, that You will cover us now that our minds will be focused and centered on You that we can
receive whatever it is You would speak to us from under this fifth Seal. And we’ll give You the glory and the honor and the praise for it all for it’s in the Name of our God, Yeshua HaMashiach, we pray. Amen and amen. And the church said just that, “Amen.”

You may be seated together tonight.

Turn with me, if you will, before we get going very far to the Book of Daniel. If there’s one book that upsets people other than the Book of the Revelation, it would be that parallel prophetic book, the Book of Daniel. So I’m just going to whip the devil tonight and speak from Daniel, too. Hallelujah.

Daniel, chapter 9.

Just going to give you a taste of this. This is too much for this hour.

Verse 21. Daniel 9. Do you mind if I start reading while you’re looking?

\[ Yea, \text{ whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. (The sacrifice.)} \]

\[ And \text{ he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to} \]
shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting... (Daniel 9:21-24)

I just want to stop there because I want you to hear the purpose of these seventy weeks. Now it’s kind of like this. We get over there in Ephesians, and we read about the five-fold ministry. And he said, “I’m going to give apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists.” And that’s what everybody remembers. But after that, he tells exactly why they have come and how long they’re going to be in the earth – to bring unity and edification and perfection. And so everybody in this building has heard about the fact that Daniel had a vision. And in that vision, it was revealed to him that there would be seventy weeks. We’ve all heard that – seventy weeks.

But now I want you to hear what Gabriel, the archangel of the Lord, not a man as you know a man, but an angel created by God who had the form of a man because the best we can tell in the Bible, angels aren’t sissies. The best we can tell in the Bible, they don’t have blue eyes and blond, curly, feminine hair and have the bodily form of a female. Or they’re not little babies in diapers called cherubs. There’s no such thing
as that. In fact, it’s really blasphemous, if you want my true opinion, to take something as mighty as a Cherubim and shrink it down to a little fat baby with pudgy cheeks and little wings. It’s blasphemous to me because a Cherubim is a mighty warrior in the economy of God. See?

So somebody said, “I collect angels. Is that wrong?” Well, we all collect them because he said, “I will give my angels charge over you.” So we’ve all got angels around us. But it is a little silly when people want all these little prissy little angels around because I just don’t believe there is such a thing as that. One time, I saw a little statue of an angel. I sure would’ve liked to have had it, but my pocketbook wouldn’t let me, because he was a real angel. I said, “Now, if there was going to be something that looked like an angel, that’s what an angel would look like.” He looked like a warrior. And I believe that’s what angels are. Yes, amen. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah. (That’s extra. I won’t charge you anything for that.)

But I wanted you to see, now... I didn’t want you to just get caught in the language because after a while this will be important to you because Gabriel, the archangel of God, this mighty warring angel... the prophet called him a messenger angel... these angels are very significant. Gabriel is a very significant angel because the Bible says, by name, that he was the very one who came down and delivered this message to Mary that God was going to do something great in her life.
In Daniel, chapter 10, the next chapter, we hear about another great warring angel whose name was Michael who has so much significance in the Bible that a prophet said that he was referred to as Lord Michael, which means there’s something very powerful about Michael. Now when I preach on that, people get nervous because they know that the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses believe he was God. Well, I’ll just tell you this. I do believe that Melchisedek or “Chesedek” was God. I do believe that.

But listen very carefully to verse 24 because it’s in verse 24 that God tells us why Daniel was given this vision of seventy weeks. Listen carefully now.

- Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people... (Daniel 9:24)

Now who are the people of Daniel? The Jewish people. Where was Daniel when he received this vision? Babylon. The Jewish people had been taken captive to Babylon. And I’m telling you, it was in Babylon that they were so oppressed and vexed that they said, “How can we sing the songs of Zion in a strange land?” But, the sad thing about it is, when God placed Darius and these other men that His hand was on as rulers over Babylon and they sent the Jews back with permission and supplies and letters to rebuild the Temple, many of the Jewish people chose rather to stay in Babylon.
Now somebody said, “What’s that got to do with anything.” Well, it’s terrible. You moan and groan about how hard things are. And then when things get a little better for you, you’d rather live over there. See, now a friendly king comes on the scene and things are real good in Babylon, so we’ll let you all go and build the Temple. Isn’t this just like today? We’ll let you go build the Temple. And when everything is set up and just right, we’ll come worship with you.”

That’s how they did. But you know, many of them never did go back. And they had their children and their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren and their great-great-grandchildren in Babylon. And did you know that still in this hour those Jews are coming out of Babylon and going back to Jerusalem from Iran, and from Iraq, and from those places that would have made up the place of Babylon? Our friends who own now two shops on Ben Yehuda Street walked... walked out of those countries to come home to Jerusalem. They may not be wealthy people, but God’s blessed them to the place that they own two little shops of Judaica and souvenirs. And they treat people real fair and real nice. And God has blessed them because of that.

So I just find that interesting. Here’s Daniel in Babylon receiving this Word from the Lord. I’ve said all that so you’ll pay attention.

*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people* (the Jewish people) *and upon thy holy city,* (I guarantee you that’s not Bagdad.) *to*
finish the transgression, (The sin stuff’s not over with, he said. You gotta have seventy weeks for that stuff to be dealt with.) and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness... (Daniel 9:24)

Do you know what Gabriel is telling Daniel? He’s telling him the purpose of the coming of the Messiah. “There’s going to be seventy weeks determined, Daniel. And during those seventy weeks there’s coming forth an answer to the iniquity problem. There’s coming forth an answer to the sin problem. There’s coming forth an everlasting righteousness. (That’s the Messianic Kingdom that you and I are going to enjoy in the presence of the Lord – that great millennial reign, too.)

...and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (Who is the Mashiach.)

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem... (Daniel 9:24-25)

That’s what was gettin’ ready to happen in Babylon.

...from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, unto the Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: (that’s 69 weeks altogether) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (Daniel 9:25)
Look at verse 26.

And after threescore and two weeks (that’s 62 weeks) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (Daniel 9:26-27)

I just want to say this to you that I’m not going to speak on this very much tonight. But I want to tell you something. This scripture has been greatly misused in the church world. And this “he” that keeps being mentioned has often been interpreted as the coming of the anti-Christ.

You know, we already that problem over here in Revelation, chapter 6, when the white horse rider came. We almost saw him as the Christ. But thank God, the true revelation came. The Angel of the Lord came and gave the prophet the word and said, “No, this is not the Christ, but the anti-Christ.” Not the Christ, but the anti-Christ. And he said himself, “I
almost made the biggest mistake of my life for my ministry. But He came – the Angel of the Lord came – and set me straight.”

And people have made the same mistake over this. And they have said that the... that the cutting off, and so forth, is the coming of the anti-Christ. But it ties in with verse 26. And it’s speaking about the Messiah. It is the Messiah that causes the sacrifice to cease – not the anti-Christ. Somebody said, “How in the world could it be?” Because He came and offered His blood. And He did it at such a strategic time when Rome had occupied Jerusalem. And it was only a few years later, in AD 69, that Titus came in as a General. He was not the anti-Christ. There are people who believe that Titus was the anti-Christ. He must have seemed like the anti-Christ in all of his wickedness and all the terrible things that he did, but it was the Messiah’s coming who caused the sacrifice to cease. He allowed it by coming and offering His own blood on the altar.

And so... and when did it come? It came in the... at the end of the 62nd week. Now, these weeks are... we have come to understand by paralleling Daniel and Revelation, we have come to understand that these weeks are not weeks of seven days, but they are weeks of seven years. And we’re able to determine that for several reasons that we can’t talk about tonight, but we will just as soon as the Lord will let us. And so we know then, by watching this... just hitting the highlights... We know then that we’ve already come past that time – even past that 69th week.
I can show you that in the future – just give you the highlight of it tonight. And it was in the middle of the last week that Messiah brought this breaking of the Covenant.

And so, the prophet of God... let me just hurry along by saying it this way so we can look at it later... The prophet of God said that by doing that, He cut that seven-year period in half. And he taught us... this is what we believe... what I’ve been... my understanding after hearing a man of God and the witness of my spirit with the Word... that there are 3 ½ years yet of tribulation. The Messiah came and He had 3 ½ years of ministry. And His ministry was cut off indicating that He wasn’t... didn’t just die a natural death... He was to be cut off. How many of you know He was cut off? And so there are 3 ½ years that are yet determined for your people, Daniel. Who are they for? Daniel’s people. Who is the tribulation for? Daniel’s people.

Now that doesn’t mean that under that sixth Seal the judgments of God are not going to flow upon America, because they are.

I received an email today. I didn’t see this and get it all, but I received an email today that talked about a program. And they talked about it on one of the news shows just recently – seemed to be maybe last night even. I got, in fact, two emails about it today where they revealed a government plan that’s been going on since Reagan was president. And
they call it something to do with Armageddon – Armageddon something. And what they’ve been doing all these years is they’ve been sending a group of leaders out into different places of the nation to train so that if anything tragic ever happens, then...

You know, there’s a proper succession for the President – the President, then the Vice-President. And I don’t remember then if it’s the Secretary of State or if it moves over to the leader of the Senate. But at some point, it leaves the executive branch of government and moves over to the judicial or the legislative branch of government to the leader of the Senate and the House of Representatives. And so, what they’ve been doing is they’ve been sending these men with some cabinet people, high official people with them, training them in different secret locations. And I read where one of them... they even made them go without food one day because they were setting up different scenarios of what might would happen. And in this scenario, they said the food convoy got cut off and they had to go without food one day.

“Now what are you trying to say?” What I’m trying to say is this hasn’t been revealed until the last few days. But on September the 11th, this plan went into action. And three different teams were dispatched on the lunch time of September the 11th when all these things in the morning begin to break out. By lunch time, they had dispatched three teams to three different places.
The President went to Nebraska, you know, to one of the command centers out there. The Vice-President was kept in a... for a while in a lower bunker of the White House. And they sent some of these other leaders to other places so that if anything would happen like nuclear warfare or something that we wouldn’t be without leadership. They taught them how to deal. And they’ve gone down four, five, six levels down so that if something happened... this is what they said... so that if something happened that wiped out the entire east coast from Florida to Maine... You see, all the leaders of the government would be caught in that area. And so immediately when that thing happened on September the 11th, they started dispatching people all over the United States so that whatever was going to happen wouldn’t kill them all at one time.

Does that... does that make you a little nervous? Well, it should make you feel a little confident, I guess, that all of our leaders and government people wouldn’t be knocked out at one time. But the reason why it makes me feel a little nervous is it lets me know that they know. They know that we’re really in some way sitting ducks for a time when... there’s no telling... unspeakable tragedies will fall on this nation. And they talked about the nuclear abilities of some of those nations – chemical abilities that they could just take out whole states. Now, I’m telling you, the Bride of Jesus Christ, we sure better appreciate the ark of safety that the Lord gives us.
And so, I am not saying that America will not suffer under that sixth Seal. She’s going to see great, great judgments. But I want you to understand that the tribulation and the great tribulation, according to the Bible... You can say anything you want to, but the Bible said, “Daniel, this is about your people. This is about bringing your people to the end of sin and iniquity. This is about establishing righteousness for your people.” Which lets me know that there are coming... there is coming an hour of at least 3½ more years of real judgment and trial – Jacob’s sorrow upon the Jewish people. That is one of the reasons why God in His grace seals immediately 144,000 because He wants that 144,000 to have protection from that which is about to fall upon the earth.

And so, I won’t debate that with you, but I’ll give you some more teaching on it a little bit later. So, I brought that one time. Some time ago, I asked everybody. I said, “Now, according to your understanding of what we believe, the Message and what’s been brought to us, give me some ideas about the tribulation.” And I said, “How many of you believe we’re going out of here... the Bride’s going out of here before the Tribulation, before the seven years of Tribulation?” Some people raised their hand. I said, “How many of you seem to understand that somehow we’re in the middle of it.” And a few people raised their hand. And I said, “Now, how many of you seem to believe that we’ve got 3½ more years or that we’re going to go out in the end of it?” And several people raised their hands.
So I realize we’re just all kind of in the same boat. We really don’t know exactly. There’s lots of things that concern us. And we read different verses of Scripture, and so forth. But I feel very confident that according to who these days are numbered for, there is 3 ½ years left that God is going to deal... because Messiah came in the middle and cut that seventieth week in half there, see? And because of that His ministry was cut short. And because of that, you and I... You see, from the end of that time ’til now is what we call the “Church Ages.” Thank God for them – the Church Ages. And see, what God did was He came right in there and cut the ministry of Messiah... He cut that seventieth week in half so that there could be church ages so that God could deal with the Gentiles. And then when God is through dealing with the Gentiles, what is He going to do? He’s going to go right back and deal with His Chosen from the beginning.

So even if you don’t understand all of what I just said, there’s one thing you can go home and thank God for tonight. You can thank God that that seventieth week was cut in half so that you’d have grace. Hallelujah. If you don’t get nothin’ else, you can thank the Lord for that. Hallelujah.

Now, concerning this fifth Seal... I like this one. And remember what we’ve said. I believe according to what I have received from the Lord,
and in study, and going through the Message and comparing it in Scripture, I believe that the fourth and the fifth Seal are running simultaneously, and that the fourth Seal tells what’s going on in the earth and the fifth Seal is telling what’s going on in heaven at the same time. And for those of you that are interested, you will find that in the Seal Book. You’ll find that there. That’s not just... there’s clear, great indication of that.

But here’s where people have certainly gone a little astray here because I have heard, even in the Message of the Hour ’round the churches that we fellowship with over the years, I have heard people say that this is the martyred saints. He said, “I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held.” And many people believe that these are some of the righteous that will be killed or will become martyrs for the sake of the Gospel.

And I like what I heard Brother Branham say. I hope that don’t offend you. I like what he said about that. He said this... He said, “We know that these souls are not the Bride of Christ, the Gentile Bride of Christ. We know that because,” he said, “the Gentile Bride of Christ is going to be just like Christ.” And he said, “What did Christ say when they spit on Him, when they pierced His hands and His feet, when they beat Him with the cat-of-nine-tails and plucked His beard and pierced Him with the sword and gave Him vinegar and gall to drink?” He said, “What did
the Messiah say? What did Jesus say?” He said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

And Stephen, full of the Holy Ghost, what did he say? He was certainly a part of that Ephesian Bride, wasn’t he? Because what did he say? He said, “Forgive them. Lay not this sin to their charge.” Oh, you know, it didn’t matter. I feel that. Hallelujah. It didn’t matter any more to Stephen – the pain and the suffering and the agony – because when heaven opened up and he saw the Messiah standing there before the Throne of God or at the right hand of God, I tell you it just took all the worry and all the pressure. And if there was any doubt, all the doubt was gone. And he just said, “Forgive ‘em all. Just come get me. Take me.” Hallelujah. “Just let me be with You. I don’t even care.” Well, how could he make such a statement? Because he was the Bride. Now, isn’t that a little nugget?

And he said, “That’s not what these souls were saying. They were saying, ‘Oh, Lord, how long will You let us suffer this way? How long will You let go by that You don’t bring vengeance? Will You not avenge our suffering?’” And really, if you look at the root of that, it’s the same root as revenge. They’re saying, “How long will You let this go on without bringing revenge and vengeance against our enemies?”

And, listen. They’re not out of line to say that. Somebody said, “You just said it proves they were not the Gentile Bride, the Bride that was coming
out just like Jesus.” That’s right. But they’re not wrong to say that because their prophet spoke on behalf of God and said that God said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.” So all they were doing was saying, “How long will it be, God, before You keep Your Word and avenge our blood? You said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.’”

Another reason why we know that these are not blood-bought believers is because the wording is very careful... and I checked it in the Greek... it’s also very careful here when it says why they died. It says they were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held – carefully worded.

Now, I’d like to give you that verse I was gonna give you. I gave it to you one time. Is it in the next chapter where it talks about that great number? Let’s see there. Verse 9. Oh, yes.

Now just turn over to chapter 7 and see about this crowd. In verse 9, chapter 7, he said:

- After this... (And this is after the sealing of the 144,000.) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in
their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And all the angels stood round about the throne... (And so forth.) (Revelation 7:9-11)

And he goes on.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:13-14)

You see, the description of this number that no man could number and this multitude of souls under the altar... do you see the difference? He said, “This number that no man could number, they’re there because they’ve washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.” Which means what? They held the testimony of Jesus Christ – the blood, the Messiah, the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

But, carefully, here it says, “These are the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held.” These were righteous Jews. You know, this is the greatest mercy. I think I...
I... I can’t hardly fathom this mercy. I can’t hardly fathom it. These are not believers in Jesus as the Messiah, but these are men who have kept the Covenant that was given to them by Moses on the mountain from God. They’ve kept the Torah. They’ve kept the laws of God. And they’ve walked in righteousness before God. And remember that it was their God who blinded their eyes.

This is what I want you to see. It was their God who blinded their eyes as we read about in Romans 1 all the way through 11, we read these things. It was their God who blinded their eyes that they could not see the Truth. And He did that so that the church ages could come into place and so that the Gentiles could be grafted in. Now what kind of a God would blind the eyes of the Jewish people and not let them see the Lord’s salvation and then send them to hell because their eyes were blinded, when He blinded their eyes? This is... there is no justice in that. And God is just. He’s faithful. He’s righteous. He’s fair. And there would be no justice in sending them to hell.

If you want to find that, those of you who really need to check everything out, back out, you'll find it right there where he said, “These are the righteous souls of those Jewish men.” Many of them died there, he said, under Eichmann and those... that crowd during the Holocaust. The word “holocaust” means a burnt offering. And that’s exactly what it was. And yet they go all over the world telling people there was no holocaust
– it’s all a figment of the Jewish making. The Jewish people have made it up in their minds. And I’ve been to Auschwitz. You know that. I’ve been to Auschwitz in Poland when I was preaching in Poland near Krakow. And I went to Auschwitz, and I saw with my own eyes the ovens. I laid my hand in the ovens where there are still ashes where the Jewish people were massacred.

I stood in one of the places that was used as showers. Some of those showers were torn down after the liberation by the Russian soldiers. Some of them were tore down and a little visitor center was made. But I stood in one room that was used as a shower. And they stripped them naked and told them they were going to go in there and be cleaned up because they’re dirty Jews, and they’re going to wash ‘em up and clean ‘em. And when they got ’em in there, they locked the doors... even mothers with their nursing babies... they locked the doors.

And instead of water, they had rigged the shower. I saw with my own eyes the cyanide cans. The cans are still there. You can see them also in Washington, D.C. You can see them at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem – the metal cans that the cyanide pellets came in. And they rigged a way to mix these cyanide pellets with water. And instead of just water coming out, it was cyanide gas and gassed all of those Jews together. And there was no place to bury them so they burned them in the ovens.
When the Russian soldiers got to Auschwitz, they found little boys that had run when they were getting them off the train. Some mercy, some... almost hard to imagine how it were possible. But some little boys were able to escape out of the line, and they ran into the bunks where the Jewish men were kept to work. They weren’t going to kill ‘em all. Some were going to have to be strong and work and labor. And put right... I saw it with my own eyes the sign that Hitler had put up over all of these concentration camps, “Work makes free.”

They told the German citizens and told the Polish citizens and Austrian citizens that these were labor camps. And they were death camps. And they found little boys that had somehow slipped out from under their mother and got out. And, somehow, went unnoticed by the soldiers and ran into the bunks where the Jewish men were laying on their beds all piled up in there like rats. And the men knew there was nowhere to hide them. And they knew they would die if they came in. I’ve read stories that said they were tempted to kill them theirselves because they wanted to live so bad... that they were tempted to kill the children because they knew that if they came in and caught them with the children, they would kill everybody.

But one man said, “No, we can’t do that. We’ll hide them in the toilet.” And down the middle of that bunkhouse... I’ve stood right there and seen it. Down the middle of that bunkhouse before they built it, they
dug a gully. And they built a toilet – a board coming up like that like a long trough and plywood on top. And they just cut holes in it for them to sit down on. Not a septic system, but just an open latrine. Not completely open, but you understand what I’m saying – nowhere for it to run... stinking mess. And somebody said, “The only way these children can live is if we put ‘em down in there.” And they put those little boys down in that latrine. And they lived there for several more weeks until the Russian soldiers come and liberated the camp. And they put... Can you imagine coming in as a soldier and pulling those children out of that? Their lives were spared – the mercies of God. But some didn’t find it so. And many lost their lives. Millions lost their lives – six million or more.

I don’t need to tell you all these things. You already know. But are you telling me that because these people... God blinded their eyes for dogs like us, strangers like us, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel like us? And God loved us so much from the foundation of the world that He said, “I’m going to make a way of escape for them.” He didn’t give you the Covenant He gave the Jews. But He said, “I’m going to make a way for them.” And by doing so, He brought those Church Ages to pass. And during those Church Ages, the Jews’ eyes have remained blinded from the time that Yeshua came on the scene down through the Ephesian Church Age all the way up until the age we’re living in right now – Laodicea. It’s only been a few... relative to compare to the millions
and millions of Jews that have lived during those seven Church Ages... it’s only been relatively a handful that have come to the light of Messiah. And all of that was the hand of God covering their eyes. And during that time, they were being massacred all over the world.

“Are you trying to tell me that they went to hell because they didn’t know Jesus and didn’t know salvation?” I tell you, I couldn’t serve a God... I’m being honest... I couldn’t serve a God like that. I love humanity too much that I couldn’t serve a God that would do that to those people. Now let me give you a biblical precedent how I know that this is so. I know what God did with them. He took them to heaven and placed them under the altar.

Somebody said, “That...” One of these quack churches out there said, “Well, that proves souls’ sleep.” It does no such of a thing because sleeping souls can’t cry out and say, “How long will we have to wait here?” So I don’t believe in souls’ sleep. I believe that it’s a realm where God has placed them. And they’re going to be staying there until the rest of their fellow servants and brethren have met the same death that they have met – because of mercy.

Now, I’ll tell you what I do believe. I believe that no one will inherit eternal life without accepting the sacrifice of the Messiah. I believe that Abraham and Moses and every other patriarch of the faith had to come
the same way that you and I have come – by the blood of Jesus. Somebody said, “How could that be? They didn’t even know Yeshua. He wasn’t born in their day.” But how many of you remember we brought this out just some short time ago?

The Bible clearly tells us that all of these who died in the righteous faith and in the Covenant that had been given to them, they didn’t go to hell. They went to a place called Paradise. It’s the place that Yeshua preached about when He told the story of Lazarus and the rich man, because in hell they were able to look over into Paradise and see people in the bosom of Abraham. It was another compartment of that under-realm. And we know by the Word of God, by this Bible and by the Message, the vindicated Word that’s been delivered in our day, that when they laid the body of Yeshua in that grave that His inner man didn’t lay there and wait for three days and three nights. But the Bible said He descended into the heart of the earth and led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men.

Oh, hallelujah. It don’t... I can’t see really where leading captivity captive did anything for me. But it sure makes me want to shout hallelujah for the grace that was shown to all of those righteous dead. But I have been made a partaker of those gifts that He gave, because we know by the writing of the Apostle Paul that the gifts that He’s talking about was not just eternal life to the righteous dead, but it was also those very
special gifts, love gifts, that Jesus sent down to His Bride. He was able to do that in equality and fairness and justice because He went and rescued those who did not know. Messiah had not been borned yet. So they were not going to hell because they didn’t receive a Messiah that had not yet come.

And I love it. I just love it. I was tempted to even play a little portion of it for you tonight. But I just didn’t have the chance to get it queued up and ready. But I love to hear... Several times when Brother Branham was preaching on these little things, he would get to talking about that great kind of revival meeting that went on in Paradise. I just love it. It just blesses me. I had never heard that in my life. I thought I was the only one that ever thought of anything like that. And I was preaching it one Easter weekend in my church in Anderson, South Carolina. It must have been sixteen years ago almost. And that was the first service that Brother and Sister Cleveland in South Carolina came in and heard me preach. And I was preaching on this great thing that went on. And they thought, of course, I already had heard Brother Branham because there I was preaching his message.

But the Lord showed me some of those things in the Scripture. And I just kinda dramatized them. But I’m real blessed when I hear him do it because he said, “They’ve not seen Jesus as Jesus. They didn’t know...
you know, they didn’t know Him in that manner. But, oh,” he said, “when He came...”

You know, the Bible teaches us He went and took the keys of death, hell, and the grave, and so forth. And went right there into Paradise and begin to preach to those souls and lead captivity captive. And he said, “Oh, Ezekiel... When He came to the door, Ezekiel saw Him standing there. And he said, ‘My, there He is – the Wheel in the middle of the wheel.’ And David just struck a little tune on his harp and said, ‘There He is. He’s the One that entertained me and blessed me when I... there’s the One that I sung about when His Presence would come on me. And I would sing about the coming Deliverer. There He is.’” Hallelujah. Hallelujah. And said, “Abraham said, ‘Why, there He is. He’s the One that I met coming from the slaughter of the king. And He’s the One that I paid my tithes to. There He is.’”

Oh, hallelujah. That blesses my soul that God gave a Covenant. And He said, “If you keep that Covenant, I’ll keep you.” And it’s kept them all those hundreds of years in a place of love and peace. But they could not go into the full presence of God and live eternally in the full presence of God without the blood of the sacrificial Lamb. Because it wasn’t after the prophet Malachi left the scene that God decided to come Himself and die and shed His blood, but it was before there was a Garden of Eden He decided that He would one day come and take on the form of
a man. And that’s why John saw Him as a Lamb that had been slain from the foundation of the world. But those men never knew until He showed up. I’ve just got a feeling...

Somebody said, “What would have happened if they would have raised up and rejected Him?” Well, they would have just moved over next door. They wouldn’t have had very far to go, would they? But I don’t believe there was a one... I want to say that again. I don’t believe there was a one... Now, there were men and women who died and went to hell in the Old Testament. Don’t misunderstand. Somebody said, “You mean there was a hell then?” Sure, there was. The Old Testament prophet said, “Hell hath enlarged itself.” Now that’s serious thought – that hell wasn’t big enough in the beginning. It’s just getting bigger and bigger and bigger. That’s serious business when you think about it that way.

And remember this, brother, sister, if anybody’s still listening. Hell is a creation. Just remember that. Hell is a creation. And a creation never outlives its Creator, when we’re talking about the divine Creator of all things. He’s going to outlive His creation. Somebody said, “Then how... how are we gonna live forever?” Because He’s placed within us His life. And His life is Zoe life. It is eternal life. Brother, salvation is not joining the church. It’s not praying a prayer with Billy Graham. Salvation is a
birth. And it only comes by receiving the life of God. And without the life of God, you'll die and go to a devil’s hell.

The only way a man can become eternal, the only way his soul can become eternal... because the Bible said... You can interpret it. You can twist it. You can believe what your church has always taught you if you want to. But the Bible says, “The soul that sinneth shall surely die.” There’s coming an hour... The prophet said, “I don’t know if it’s a million years or two million years – there is a literal burning hell, and souls are going to be in torment there.” He said, “I don’t know how long it’s going to last, but the Bible says, ‘The soul that sinneth shall surely die.’ It'll not outlive its Creator.” The only way a soul, a created soul of God, can live forever is to have His life living in it because He is eternal.

So just let me tell you that joining a church and even living a life and having long hair and doing all those things, precious things that are acts of obedience and righteousness and faith... But none of that is enough to give you the ability, your soul the ability, to live forever. The only way you can live forever is to have the life of God in you. And you may be like me and believe that you’re only potentially saved when you repent. You see, I believe that a man is only potentially born again when he repents. I believe that’s only the beginning. I believe that the new birth is not completed until he receives the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.
And that is not to condemn anybody. It’s to encourage you to keep pressing, and pressing, and pressing until you receive that whole life of God. It’s like a baby when it’s born. It’s not here when the water comes. It’s not here when the blood comes. It’s not here ’til the body comes, ’til the life comes.

In those days when the father wasn’t allowed to go into the delivery room, the father’s sittin’ out there... you know, you’ve seen the old cartoons or whatever. He’s got his cigars in his pocket. He’s ready to hand ‘em out and tell everybody, “I’m a father,” you know – blue cigars or pink ones, whichever – it’s a boy, it’s a girl. And he’s waiting on the nurse to come out. And when the water breaks, the nurse don’t come out and say, “Oh, sir, the water has broken, and now you’re the father of a bouncing baby boy.” And neither does the nurse come out and say, “Oh, a great issue of blood has come forth. We know that the time of birth is soon. And you’re the father of a baby girl.” No, they don’t announce the birth of a baby until the baby comes and there’s life.

Of course, you know there’s people who still think they pull ’em up by their heels and spank ’em on the bottom to make ’em breathe and cry. But I want to tell you that’s not generally the way it has to happen because normally, under normal circumstances, they come forth breathing on their own. And as soon as they get their mouth cleaned out, they know what to do – “Whaaaa, whaaaa, whaaaa.” Nobody has to pinch
'em or hurt 'em or anything. They just know what to do. They come forth... they know right then what they’re gonna’ be doing for the next three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten years. And they’re already doing it.

Now, that little analogy... some... I saw your look. I know what you’re thinkin’. “Well, that’s not the way my child come. There was water, but there was no blood.” What you’ve gotta understand is that what the man of God was talking about... and the Bible... because the Bible says that – “by the water and by the blood.” He’s talking about, of course, that issue of blood that can come forth because of the afterbirth, and so forth. And a lot of times, the baby actually comes... I don’t mean to be so plain. But you can go home and cover it up with your folk. Whatever. But, sometimes the baby comes with some blood, and then the blood would come after, or whatever. It’s not even gross. I mean, you may think it is. That’s ’cause you’ve never been there. But when you’re there and it’s your child, there is nothing sick... I don’t understand. I don’t understand. I have to be honest. I’ve a pretty weak stomach. But there’s nothing gross about it.

Oh my, it’s the most wonderful thing in all the world. I hope I live long enough to see it four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten times. My wife is out. “Twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen times.” That’s what she gets for being out. You know what she’d say if
she was here, kidding me? But you know what she’d say? She’d say, “Well, you’d better talk some of these sisters and brothers into lettin’ you go in the delivery room then, if you’ve gotta see it that many times.”

How many of you get the newspaper? Well, please cut that article out of today. It’s the most beautiful thing I’ve seen. Please cut that article out and save it and pass it around and let everybody see that beautiful godly family that’s pictured in the newspaper today. It ought to be plastered everywhere for people to see. It’s so precious to me. So precious that the governor of Arkansas gave a nice certificate to this godly-looking woman and declared her the Mother of the Year, I think, or something... Mother of the State. And isn’t it true, she’s carrying her fifteenth? Is she carrying her fourteenth or fifteenth? She’s carrying her fifteenth baby. And it’s the most beautiful... I’ve told it all day long. It made such a beautiful impact on me. You don’t have to care. But I’m going to tell you anyway.

And, listen. I know you just think they’re hicks and hillbillies and don’t know no better and don’t know what’s causing it. You know the crude, rude jokes that people make. But I was so proud of that father. He’s not a hick and he’s not a hillbilly. He’s a former senator. And he told out... I couldn’t believe he told it out like this. He said, “For the first four years... they married very young... and for the first four years of their life, their married life, they had no children because she was on the
birth control pill.” And he said, “When we heard and realized that it was causing miscarriages...” – which was a proven fact. Not only miscarriages, but extreme, extreme dangers of breast cancer and ovarian cancer. And terrible... When the birth control pill first came out, it was bringing forth the most horrible mutated... not only were there miscarriages, but the most horrible mutated little babies. You wouldn’t even want to read the stories of how these little babies were coming out, formed, because of this stuff that was being introduced into women’s bodies.

He said, “After four years, we decided we wanted to do it God’s way.” And he said, “Here we have... here we are.” And he said, “I’ve told my wife several times – if that was enough, it could be enough. If she felt like... you know, then it would be all right.”

And she said, “No, no. They’re all blessin’s from the Lord. And as long as He wants to keep sendin’ blessin’s, I’m ready to receive them.”

And the most beautiful thing about it is she had no makeup on and no big ol’ earbobs and all the worldly things. But her hair was pulled back in a nice little bun. Nice little... I mean it looked Pentecostal. I don’t know if they were or not, but they looked that way. And all those little children were standing there. The mother had on a beautiful homemade jumper, I’m sure, and a big white- collared blouse. And all the little girls had jumpers to match. And all the little boys had on little navy blue
coats and ties. The littlest boys had on bow ties. The bigger boys had long ties. And they were all standing there at the Capitol with their mother to receive this award.

Here’s a kinda funny part. They’ve lived in a small home with two bathrooms. Can you imagine two bathrooms and fourteen children? And they’re building their own home... huge home... building their own home, paying for it as they go. They’ve been working on it two years. They’re hoping to have enough money to put the siding on this summer. Maybe move in by the end of the year, I think, end of the summer, end of the year. And they’re describing how nice it’s going to be. They’re going to have a washroom with two washing machines and four dryers. Well, that’d be like heaven, wouldn’t it? That’ll just give you an indication of all the laundry.

I said this. I said, “It’s a gift.” I said that. I said, “That woman has a gift from God. God gave her a gift to be able to do that and keep on smilin’ and enjoyin’.” But I thought, “What a condemnation to the world.” I’m sure the Associated Press put that all over. What a condemnation to America – all the women standing in line for abortions and all the thousands and thousands and millions of dollars that’s spent every year on birth control. What a condemnation to these people that choose a career rather than the purpose that God put us in the earth.
Oh, where did I get that? The Message of the Hour where the prophet of God said, “That’s the sickness of America that a woman would rather go around with a Fifi – Fifi, her poodle. She’d rather show her poodle off than to bring children into the world.” He said, “Oh, I read that article about how that woman throwed her baby off of the bridge there and drowned her baby.” He said, “That woman wasn’t a mother. She wasn’t a mother. A mother wouldn’t do something like that. She may have been a woman, but she wasn’t a mother.” He talked about the...

I just thought, “What a testimony, though, to people that have all these weird ideas.” None of our... I mean, none of the little young... A few weeks ago, some of the young sisters went shopping and went to lunch. And none of them had more than two or three of their own. But it just so happened that they all had their babies with them and not their toddlers, but their babies. And so, they all had a buggy to push. And it looked... Here they come down the mall – five or six strollers and five or six carriers. And the whole world looked at ’em, turned around and like “What’s wrong with you?”

We were at Cracker Barrel up here on Sunday. And we had our boys. And Nathan was there, and Ben and Zack was there. And Joshua was with us. And they were all sittin’ at the table. And when we got up to leave, I saw this man... I saw this man and I heard everything he said. He didn’t know it though – nice young lookin’ fellow. He kept telling
his wife, he said, “I want you to look at there, all them young’uns.” They had two. “I want you to look at them women, all them buns on their head. Every one of them has got long hair,” he said. “What is that?” And she said to him, “It’s their religion. It’s their faith. Shhh. That’s who they are – what they believe.”

He said, “Well, that don’t make no sense to me why anybody would want a whole table full of children.” I could hear him. I was just ready to git him. I mean, all the boys did look alike. They all, you know, had their hair all parted the same way – all of ’em. And we walked by, and they looked at my wife. And the lady looked up and she said, “Just how many of those boys are yours?” I said, “They’re all ours. They’re all ours. They all belong to us.” And my wife said, “No, no, no, no, no, no. No, the two there...” And she was dividing it up, you know. But that’s how the world looks... But what a testimony, and a godly little testimony, for the whole world to see. I appreciated that so very much. I won’t charge you extra. And, I’ll soon be through. How I appreciated it.

But it’s not until the baby comes that life, the testimony of life, is given. And any daddy would fall in the floor if that little baby come and didn’t cry, or wiggle, or move, or do something. Even when Olivia was born, she was born very peaceful. But none of our children had been blue. She was very, very blue. And for a split second, just looking at her... it’s a shock, you know. Because Benjamin and Joshua, they had come almost
pink. But she looked very, very blue. And for a split second, you know, that little bit of fear touched my heart. Michele said, “Oh, Daddy, don’t worry about nothin’. We’ll put her...a little oxygen on her and pink her up in a hurry.” And, sure enough, as soon as she took a little oxygen, she just turned pink. But, you know, any father would fall in the floor if that baby come and didn’t cry. That’s how you know that there’s still life there. After all, that little child’s been through something. And when he screams, at least that lets you know there’s still life there. Hallelujah.

And you know what I heard Brother Branham say? He said, “Why, this modern church world, they don’t want nothin’ to do with them screamin’, shoutin’, snottin’, carrying-on Acts 2:38 babies. That’s what he said. They don’t want nothin’ to do with that. But, he said, “Thank God, that’s what we are.” Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

I used to go to them ol’ dead, dry, formal Message churches and preach that quote screaming so loud it would pierce everybody’s ears. And I did it so much that a brother in Florida sent me a big, ol’ badge to wear that said, “I’m a screamin’, shoutin’, snottin’ Acts 2:38 young’un.” Hallelujah. Thank God. You know why I can be that? Because it wasn’t just the water. And it wasn’t just the blood. But it was the life. He didn’t just justify me and sanctify me, but He filled me with His life when He baptized me with the Holy Ghost. Oh, hallelujah. I might get excited about that. Glory. (Tongues) Hallelujah.
I don’t do near enough cuttin’ up. I don’t do near enough cuttin’ up, hallelujah. None of us do, you know. We’re maintaining our dignity. What for? It’s put on. None of you came from dignity. Hallelujah. None of you came from that dignified aristocracy. Just about everybody come from, you know, Jane Doe’s, average Joe’s, whatever, just regular anybody. None of us come through anything... I mean, spiritually giants, and so forth. But I mean, you know, just mostly hard workin’ people brought us here. So we don’t have to put on any airs. Glory to God. Thank the Lord for the good Holy Ghost.

So this is what happened. That same God who preserved... So many Jewish people under the covenant of Moses went to hell because they rejected the Covenant. They broke the laws of God. They didn’t follow the instructions or the commandments of Torah. Now remember this, though. If they broke a commandment, God gave them a way out – you bring a sacrifice. He gave them once a year a Day of Atonement where the priest went in and made a sacrifice on behalf of the people. But, listen, you had to do something about it the rest of the time. There was an instruction to follow. There was a life to live. As I preached last night, there was a way to plant your garden. There was a way to dress. He said, “Don’t wear garments of mixed fibers.” So don’t tell me God doesn’t care about how people dress. He’s always cared about how people dress. And that’s why He told them not to wear mixed fibers.”
So there were... there were laws and commandments and things that they had to live by. But if they would live by those, then every year on the Day of Atonement, their sins were covered because God could not hold them responsible for a Messiah that had not yet come. But when He came, He not only brought salvation to us, He went right down into there and brought salvation to all those that had died righteously in the faith.

And that's the same thing that is going to happen one of these days to that multitude of souls that dwell underneath the altar in the heavenly realm – those Jewish martyrs. One of these days the same plan that has been offered to you is going to be offered to them. The same way out that was offered to all of those righteous dead in Paradise is going to be offered to all of those Jewish martyrs under the altar. Hallelujah. And without exception, I don't believe a one moved over from Paradise into Sheol. I don't believe a one of them said, “You're not the Man, I'm going to go in here and burn forever.” I believe every one of them were so taken by the glory and the power of His coming, the brightness of His coming, that everyone said, “There He is.” Hallelujah. “Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai.” I believe they all cried, “Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai. (Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.) There He is.” They were forgiven. They made that contact with God.
I do not believe that people can go to heaven or have eternal life by any other way than by the blood of the Lamb and by being filled with the Holy Ghost. But there was a quote made. Something was said. I believe it must have been anointed of the Lord, and somebody added their twist to it. And now, there’s a doctrine that goes around that says people are given eternal life because they’re good to the Bride. I believe people are given blessings. I believe God watches after people. I believe He takes care of people and will bless them if they bless His Bride. Just like the promise that God said, “If you bless Israel, I’ll bless you. If you bless the Bride, I’ll bless you.”

But just because you cooked a pot of peas when somebody died in the Bride and brought ’em to their house doesn’t give you eternal life. What it may do... I don’t know... I have no Scripture for this... it may give you another opportunity somewhere down the road to call on the Name of the Lord. And if that be the case, that would be tremendous. Wouldn’t that be nice? I hope that is the way. But I can’t prove that by the Bible so I have to just say perhaps... Don’t leave with the impression that just being nice to somebody can give you eternal life, no more than just being Jewish... Because two-thirds of what the Jewish people do today is not the law of Moses anyway – it’s the interpretation of their rabbis. Yeshua’s got to come back to deliver them from their dogmas and creeds just like He had to deliver us out of our dogmas and creeds.
That’s why He delivered us from man-made religion. That’s why God said, “These denominations...” The prophet said through... God said through the prophet that these denominations are the blasphemous names because they’ve inserted their creed, their dogma, over God’s Word. And so God had to come and deliver us out of that. And He’s going to come and make... So, you know, this is a wonderful thing what God’s going to do.

And they cried out... (We’re going to close shortly.)

He said, “How long?”

> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (Revelation 6:10)

And listen at what God did. He said...

> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season... (Revelation 6:11)

How did they get white robes? It was not because their lives had been washed in the blood of the Lamb. They had not yet been washed in the blood of the Lamb. They were granted white robes because they had lived godly righteous lives. They had followed the commandments of
God. You know, that should make an impact on you. If they were given white robes because they lived a godly righteous holy life and kept the commandments of God, it should make every one of us want to be careful how we live. It should show you the great importance of following God’s Word. It was enough to give them white robes. He said, “You’re going to rest for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

Now, when I think about that... when I’m in Jerusalem and I hear about another suicide bombing and I hear three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twenty-three, and on and up were killed... Every time I hear that, I know that another soul has been added under that altar. Now that’s a wonderful thing. Somebody said, “How do you know that?” Because, for the world, the Church Ages are not yet quite over. If you say they are, I will show you where he said that the Lamb is still on the Mercy Seat. And the Lamb is not going to be on the Mercy Seat if the Church Ages are totally over for the world.

The Bride of Christ is moving into a Bride Age. But there is still Blood on the Altar. And as long as there’s Blood on the Altar, their eyes are blinded. Yes, God may be giving them more glimpses than they’ve ever had before, but generally, in whole... in the whole sense of the word... they still have blinded eyes. And until that happens, every one of them who will live a righteous life – not just because they’re Jews do they go
up, but those Jews... So, you know, out of the eleven, all eleven may not go there. Some may go and pay the price. But I believe that because there’s no daily sacrifice and because there’s no blood sacrifice any more and there’s no Temple, I believe that in all likelihood they all go and they wait.

That’s a very profound thing for you to think about. We said in the Old Testament some rejected the Law and went to hell. But that was because those who did not had blood sacrifices. In this hour, there’s no Temple and there’s no blood sacrifice to cover their sin. And everybody’s going to fall short of the Law. There’s got to be something. There’s got to be some grace. I happen to personally believe that that grace causes every one of those souls to go and hang wherever they... It’s symbolic. It’s symbolic. You’re not going to go to heaven... I mean if you were to die right now and go, you wouldn’t see a bench like this and a basket of souls under the bench. You understand that, don’t you? That’s the symbolism of the Book of the Revelation. But somewhere in a realm of God’s making, He places those Jewish souls there until the hour that their... all their brethren, the others that have to be killed, and so forth, and etc.

Now, I don’t want to offend anybody, and I probably will. But let me read something to you. It’s just 9:16. I’ll hurry. Let me read something to you.
Now, listen. I’m going to be real plain. I know there are people here that don’t really know so much about the Message, what we call the Message, and so forth. The Message is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, that a lot of us have learned from the ministry of Brother Branham. He is not a god – he’s a man. He made mistakes. And he’s not a savior, he’s not a messiah, but he was a prophet. And he fulfilled a very important role, at least in my life. That’s what I tell people – at least in my life, you know?

So... But, because there’s so many of us... although I know everyone’s not... But, because there are so many of us who are familiar, I’m taking my liberty. And I have during this teaching. And I know you’ll understand me taking my liberty.

There are people... and maybe you feel this way. And if you do, I still love you and I ask you to still love me, all right? We’re big boys and girls now – adults. And please don’t be offended. But there are people who would say there are no mistakes in this book. I’m telling you, there are. Okay? You don’t have to say, “Amen,” because I don’t want to get you in trouble with God. But I feel very confident to say that there are some things in here that are not completely correct.

Now, one of those things is the prophet was preaching along and he got confused between how many souls were reserved under the ministry of Elijah. And he interchanged 700 and 7000. Yes, he corrected it. Yes, he corrected it. But the foolish thing is that in the back of this book, before
the Seventh Seal was preached, there is a section called what? Questions and Answers on the Seals. And any of you who know me, know what I think about COD and Questions and Answers anyway. I think people are absolutely... were absolutely nut cases to ask such foolish questions of a prophet of God who came to be a weaver and to weave together the hidden mysteries of the Lord. And they had the nerve to ask him if a woman should shave her legs?

That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard of in my life. Don't you have the Holy Ghost? Don't you have a husband to ask whether you should shave your legs? Don't you have a personal opinion? But if you believe that this is a mighty prophet of God sent down to give us the interpretation of the Word, you're really going to take his time? If I offend you with this, I'm sorry. I've said this now for many years. I think it is absolutely ridiculous that people will make quotes out of such as that. And a lot of it was that way. And do you know what? For a lot of people, they say, “Why, that... why, Brother Branham, he knew everything. He received everything there was to receive about the Seven Seals.”

Evidently not, because in the Questions and Answers, four times in a row he said, “I don’t know. I don’t know. I don’t know. I don’t know. I can't tell you, if I don’t know.”
They asked another question. “I don’t know. It would be wrong for me to say. I don’t know.”

Now does that sound like somebody who God gave every revelation, every answer to everything? No. I’m not taking away. I’m making him what he was. And you may not like me for it, but God is going to honor me. And I’ll show you that in the Bible and in the Message of the Hour, because we’ve heard that God honored Daniel. And He honored Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, because He said that they were commanded to bow before the image of a prophet, and they would not do it. They gave their loyalty to God and to God alone. I believe in showing proper respect. But I do believe that there are going to be things like that in any man’s ministry no matter how called, vindicated or whatever they are. Men are men.

And sometimes he thought about correcting it, and sometimes he didn’t. People will... The reason why I have to... I said I’m taking my liberty tonight. But people will pull these things out and make doctrines that really don’t belong. And I said all that to say that under the fifth Seal, the prophet said one time, in a small way, he said that he believed that the 144,000 were some of these souls that were going to be killed and that would go under the altar. I don’t see that in the Bible. If I don’t see that in the Bible, I'll not stand here and say, “Brother Branham, you were wrong.” What I’ll say is, “I cannot see that in the Bible. I don’t see
the Scripture saying that at all.” So just relax. Just let me read you the
two places in the Bible that speaks about the 144,000, and then I’ll tell
you why I’m even making a to-do about it at all.

Chapter 7, verse 1. Everybody still here? Yes. Hallelujah. We still love
you. Oh, yes.

- *And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners
  of the earth... (Revelation 7:1)*

Don’t come and tell me... don’t come and tell me that this is your Abso-
lute. Don’t tell me that. The Holy Ghost in somebody doesn’t say that.
That is not the Holy Ghost in somebody that makes them take a man’s
book and say, “This is my Absolute,” when he said himself, “This Word
of God is the Absolute. And if I tell you anything you can’t take back to
this Word, just leave it alone. Leave it alone. Lay it aside. Stay with the
Word.”

And I’ll tell you why I believe some of these things were said, because I
do not believe that Brother Branham was chosen by God to go to Israel.
I do not believe that God gave him a ministry for the Jews in Israel. I
do not believe that. I believe that ministry was given to the Bride. I do
not believe it had anything to do with his commission. And those of you
who know the history of that will know that’s probably right because
he thought one time... He said, “I’ve just got a feeling that all it’s going
to take is the manifestation of this sign.” He said, “You know they’ve always followed prophets.” And he said, “I just believe if they could see this gift in operation that perhaps they would all believe.”

So it seems that he came to the place where he thought himself that he might have a ministry there because he bought a ticket and was on his way. And he got as close as Cairo and he walked out behind an airplane hanger. And the Lord said he was not to go – it was not the time. I am not telling you that it’s my commission exclusively. But I am telling you that it is the commission of the Bride of Christ to take the Gospel Truth to Israel. I personally believe that if he would have went, it would have caused the greatest confusion in that nation, spiritually, that she’s had since the prophets of the Old Testament, because they stoned and killed those mighty prophets.

I mean, I know you people love Brother Branham, and so do I. But they had mighty prophets before. They had Elijah and Elisha, great men of God who brought great mysteries and truth and who raised the dead and caused ax-heads to float and healed the sick – great miracles before. And they ended up trying to kill them all.

So I don’t believe that was God’s economy. And because it was not his calling and his commission, maybe some of these things were said that way. And so, I want to be fair and honest.
And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand... (Revelation 7:1-4)

And he names all the tribes that they have come from.

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number... (And he goes on.) (Revelation 7:9)

Now, turn, if you will, all the way over then... I missed my note there. Sorry. Just a second... further over in the Book of the Revelation. Go with me. Just start turning. I'll tell you when to stop. Maybe that’s it. Yes. 14:1. Thank you, brother.

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.
And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice... (Revelation 14:1)

Now where were they standing? On Mount Zion. In the earth. All right.

...having his Father’s name written in their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven,... (Revelation 14:1-2)

That shows they were on the earth. The voice came from heaven. They were not in heaven. They were on Mount Zion. The voice came from heaven.

...as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder:
and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (Revelation 14:2-3)

Now that means where they’ve come from.

These are they which were not defiled with women; (Revelation 14:4)

I know what you’re saying – then why were the four beasts there, and so forth? I’m sure if you follow along, you’ll understand that in a little while, in a few minutes.
which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the (what?) firstfruits. (Revelation 14:3-4)

I thought you told me in the Message that there was only going to be 144,000 Jews saved? But John, who received this revelation from the Angel of the Lord... that’s not what he said.

He said, “These are the firstfruits.” These are the forerunners. These are “the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.”

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:5-7)

And he goes on and on and on. And this is the only time that the 144,000 are mentioned again. Somehow, at some point, they stand in heavenly realms. Somehow they stand in heavenly realms with the Lamb, with the four beasts. This is not after the coming of the Lord in chapter 19,
although we must understand that the Book of the Revelation is not entirely written chronologically. Jesus does not come back riding on a white horse with His saints until Revelation, chapter 19.

There are two points that I want to make here. He said, “You can’t hurt the earth until they’re sealed.” They’ve got to have the Seal of God in their forehead. And yet, it... one little place, it... referring to the 144,000, he said, “The souls are being kept there until the 144,000 join them.” There would be no reason for the 144,000 to join those Jewish martyrs under the altar because the 144,000, he told us, are sealed by what? Do you know what God seals them with? The Holy Ghost. He said God is going to send a Holy Ghost revival. He said it’s going to be a Pentecostal revival upon these 144,000. They’re going to hear the Gospel. And how are they going to hear it? God is going to raise up two witnesses. And those two witnesses are not going to preach the Talmud or the Mishnah. They’re not going to teach the interpretation of the rabbi. They’re going to teach “Thus Saith the Lord.” And “Thus Saith the Lord” is going to be who the Messiah is. And they’re going to receive the Messiah and be sealed by the Holy Ghost, which makes them your equal – Holy Ghost-filled believers who have no need to join those unredeemed, unregenerated Jewish martyrs under the altar.
You don’t see them there in the Bible. You see them standing on Mount Zion with the Lamb and the four Beasts, which seems to indicate, perhaps, that this is not in chronology, and that this could even possibly be after the coming of the Lord on the white horse.

But here they are... these few verses here... whenever it happens. And they’re sealed and protected. This is the point I want to make to you. They’re protected. I do not see that the 144,000 are killed as martyrs. I believe they’re sealed and protected, and I believe that John was very careful in telling us,

“These are the firstfruits.”

And you know what that means? That means that if there are firstfruits, there’s got to be some more. I don’t know how many more. I can’t say that, really, you know. I can’t really say. When you go out and find a few grapes that are ripe, I can’t say that they’re all going to get ripe, because a tornado may come and take the vine away. However, it seems to say to me that if some come to ripeness and you say, “This is the firstfruits,” that it seems to indicate there’s another harvest coming after that.

And I believe it. And he must have believed it, too, because right there in that same Seal he said, “I want to say again, ‘All Israel shall be saved.’” Now that is not everybody who says they’re a Jew or thinks
they’re a Jew, or so forth. We understand what it means to be a true Jew. We understand that. I hope you understand that. We see that very clear. We have no problem with that.

Do you mind if I have another minute? Thank you. It’s 9:30. So sorry.

Watch me. Let me read this to you about the 144,000. Do you want to hear what he believed about them? He said, “Watching what he did to little Benjamin...” He’s preaching about Joseph. He’s typing Joseph to Jesus. Good type, isn’t it? “Watching what he did to little Benjamin, which is the type of the 144,000,” he said, “Benjamin was a type of the 144,000. What did Benjamin receive that his brothers didn’t receive?” The prophet said, “He received a double portion. He didn’t just receive the portion, he received a double portion.

“So, my, if Benjamin is a type of the 144,000, they must be really gonna have a Holy Ghost revival. See? See what he did? He just ran right quick to Benjamin and fell on his neck. Remember how Joseph did? Fell on his neck and started hugging him.” He said, “His little brother that had been borned into the family after he’d been gone... See, Joseph had never seen him. He was borned after Joseph had been sold into captivity.”

And he said, “Why, that was the first church – it represented the Orthodox Church.” He said the 144,000 that was born in his absence while
he was away to receive a Gentile Bride...” Now, that’s very powerful because he’s saying this is the counterpart. This is the Jewish elect. This 144,000 is the counterpart of the Gentile Bride. It’s the Jewish Bride. It’s the Jewish elect. The rest of the Jews will go into that last 3 ½ years of Tribulation and suffer greatly and in the end be saved because He’s coming back at the end. Whether you believe there are 7 years left or 3 ½ years left, it doesn’t matter.

At the end, we all know... at the end of that, whether there’s 3 ½ or 7 years... at the end of that, what’s going to happen? Yeshua is coming back on a white horse. And they’re going to see Him on the Mount of Olives. He’s going to stand on the Mount of Olives. They’re going to recognize Him. And they’re going to be saved in a day. You see, that prophecy is two-fold. Israel not only became a nation in a day, but the Jews are coming to the faith of Yeshua in a day. It’s the Word of the Lord – a two-fold prophecy. We can see that. These 144,000, I believe, by the Word and by the Message, they are sealed by the Holy Ghost to become workers and witnesses. The two witnesses don’t receive this protection. They’re killed and lay 3 ½ days dead in the street and then raised up of God. But there’s no indication there that the 144,000 die. And then he goes on to talk about how we know they’re not Bride because those souls under the altar, you know... I said that already.
I want to read a little something else... I thought I marked it for you... and then I’ll close. I hope you’re not upset with me. If you are, I just love you. And I hope you just love me. We’ll all see when we get there – it doesn’t matter. I thought I had marked it ‘cause I really wanted to read it. I’ll just read this little thing to you while we’re here. Oh, yeah. Okay. I’ll read this little thing to you.

Said, “Them Jews, they’re the most religious people in the world. God chose them, but He blinded them so He could take us. They turned it down, of course. What is the judgment of the Gentile church? There you are, see? Blinded purposely by God so that He could get us, the Bride. For it’s sealed. Take them out of there. See? That foretypes and foreshadows everything.”

But, here is this. Oh, let me tell you this now. This is about the souls under the altar. Let me read this. He said, “They realized...” Oh, also, there’s a quote above this that said, “They don’t receive those white robes until the church is taken home.” I just thought I’d mention that. They don’t actually get those white robes until the Church is carried away into another dimension, another realm.

But then let me read this here real quickly.

“They realized they had murdered their Messiah. They didn’t know it. But then they realized it. They got murdered back to pay for it, for doing
the wrong. And now look what a thing they had to do. See, they were guilty of murder, so they were murdered. They cried out, ‘His blood be on us.’ That’s right. And they were blinded. Now, if they hadn’t have been, then of course, you know what would have happened. Now, if they hadn’t have been blinded, God would have said, ‘Let them alone. They’re not worthy.’ But being that they were blinded by God, His grace reached down to them, amen... talk about amazing grace... and gave each one of them a robe because all Israel will be saved. Everyone has his name written... that’s right.”

All I’m saying is it’s my understanding... just take this for what it is... it’s my understanding that there are going to be more than 144,000 Jewish people come out of that thing with eternal life. I believe that the 144,000 are going to be sealed with the Holy Ghost in the same way the Gentile Bride is going to be sealed with the Holy Ghost. But I believe they are firstfruits, the Bible said so, and forerunners. And because of their witness and their example, I believe there will be many others who will see the faith of Yeshua, because when the Bible describes His coming on the Mount of Olives, it describes it as all Israel coming to a saving grace. And I believe God has a number there. So wonderful.

So, all that we want to leave you with under that fifth Seal is a beautiful, beautiful love story. They were blinded so that you could see the light. And God could have easily let ’em perish, but there would have been no
justice in that. So He’s placed them somewhere in a heavenly realm. And He has done...

Somebody said, “What’s so important about these Seals anyway?” Can I just tell you that the church wasn’t teaching that? Can I tell you that before Brother Branham brought these little truths, the Church wasn’t teaching that those were the Jewish souls because they believed... listen, replacement theology was already rampant. And they already believed that the Gentile Church had replaced the Jews. So for the prophet to come along and say, “These are not Christian martyrs. These are Jewish souls” – this was a revelation from God. And it made a powerful, powerful impact. And I am so grateful to know that God had a plan. He took them there. He keeps them safe.

And now in this hour, more Jewish souls are still being added to that number. And one day, it will be enough. And when it’s enough, in the end they’ll receive white robes, hallelujah, just like you’re going to receive a white robe. And the Bible says here they’re the firstfruits. So there must be some more coming from somewhere that will receive Him when He comes.

Notice, they receive their Messiah before He comes. They receive their Messiah because of the preaching of the two witnesses. They cannot be the same group. The 144,000 cannot be the same group that receives Him when He comes in Revelation 19. They can’t be the same group.
They are already sealed by that time. They’re sealed before the finishing of the seventh Seal. Before the seventh Seal is finished, those 144,000 are sealed. That’s what the Bible teaches. So they cannot be a part of that group who look up and say, “Who, who... where did you get those scars?” He said, “I received them in the household of my brethren.”

Do you think men that have already received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and brought a Pentecostal revival to Jerusalem, you think they’re going to be the ones that say, “Sir, where did You get those scars?” No, they’ve already had the Gospel preached to them. They’ve already been sealed. They’re already having a great revival. I don’t know how they’re caught up to stand in heavenly places except maybe by the supernatural realm. I’m not sure exactly how it all is going to happen. But, thank God, thank God, thank God.

Come, musicians.

Hallelujah. So what’s the point, huh? What’s the point? Oh, blessed be the Name of the Lord. I just love it that God don’t forget about any of ‘em. He’s got a plan running simultaneously with all of us. Oh, hallelujah. Just to think... Just to think...

Why, I had a man come here not too long ago. And he sat Sister Nancy and I down. My wife was either with us, or standing right around, and he said, “God... I believe that God has revealed to me that your ministry
is a part of that ministry that God is going to raise up and lay a platform.” He said this to us privately. And he even give us verse of Scripture that was given to him. And he said, “I believe that speaks about this ministry right here.” I said, “Well, brother, thank you so much. We appreciate that. That’s so nice. And we’ll just hold that between ourselves and the Lord and just wait on it and whatever.” Because all I need to know is that God wants me to have a little part. That’s all I need to know. I don’t have to have a verse named after me.

Later, I just wanted him to know that. I said, “You know, brother, I just want you to know God don’t have to name a star after me. And I don’t have to be an angel. As my wife would tell you, I’m not. Just let me be one of those where he said... I believe it’s our responsibility... let me be a part of those who bear the responsibility of help getting this Gospel truth back. ’Cause one of those days... Wouldn’t that be something if one of those days we were sittin’ there in that little basement chapel, or wherever God has us at that time, and God brings somebody in there, and he gets a hold of the truth, and the spirit of Elijah falls on him, and he becomes... he’s one of those chosen witnesses?

Somebody said, “I just can’t see anything like...” Well, he’s going to come from somewhere. Hallelujah. And I don’t care if that’s the way it happens. That don’t matter to me. Just let me be the one that tells the one, that tells the one, that tells the one, that tells the one, and tells
somebody else, and he tells another. And a woman gets involved, and she tells a thousand people. And one of them thousand tells another man. And he tells a son, and his son tells his schoolmate. And his schoolmate goes home and tells his dad. And when he tells his dad, his dad says, “That’s exactly right.” And the spirit of Elijah falls on him and Moses on the next... I don’t care how it happens. Just let me be found busy in the vineyard of the Lord. Just let me have a part in what God is doing. Just let me have some part in it.


You foolish anti-Semite, you. You know? You hold things at the charge of the Jews. The Jews are blamed with everything. Do you know, they circulated a rumor around after September the 11th that no Jew was killed in the Twin Towers because they were all pre-warned and they all stayed at home that day because the Jews had a conspiracy, and they’re the ones who blew up the World Trade Center. Well, isn’t that ridiculous. So the rabbis had to come out and list the Jews that were killed in September the 11th just so they’d know that all the Jews didn’t stay home sick that day.

People believed that. People will believe that. So all those people that have all that hatred against, specifically against, the Jewish people, aren’t they going to be surprised when they find out that God had placed
them in a special chamber during the Church Ages so that at the end of all of this, He could give ’em salvation and deliverance, and hope? And He wouldn’t even let ’em perish and go to hell. He loved them so much that after He blinded them, He made a way of escape for them.

Oh, hallelujah, glory to God. And in that fifth Seal, the prophet said, “I’ll just tell you right now, if you want God to bless you,” he said, “You be a blessing to Israel or you be a blessing to the Jewish people, and God will bless you.”

And it’s proven out by the Word of God. So God has seen every sacrifice you’ve made, every month that’s it been hard for you to meet your pledge and your obligation. And the devil might tell you wonder what in the world is going on and what good is coming out of it, I tell you, when you stand in the presence of God and receive your reward for how you’ve sowed into that ministry and what God is doing there, you’ll see. This, tonight, ought to be enough to let you know that God loves those folk. And if you’ll love ’em and treat ’em good, God will bless you.

Let’s love everybody, and treat everybody right. Let’s be good to all peoples. Amen. And we ought to show extra love to the household of faith – extra kindness and gentleness to one another. Hallelujah. I just feel happy in the Lord. Let’s just give the Lord praise tonight.
We worship You, Lord. We glorify You. We bless the Name Yeshua. We bless You. Hallelujah. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. Thank You for the Holy Ghost. Thank You for that great revival in the streets of Jerusalem when the Holy Ghost is poured out. Oh, hallelujah.

(Singing:) “Oh, I know it was the blood for me...” Let me hear you sing that one time.

(Singing:) “I’m in that number...” Hallelujah. Hallelujah...

We haven’t had a lot of personal ministry. Perhaps we’ll be able to do that on the weekend. But I have to tell you that a load lifts off of me when I’m able to get this off of me. And, so, I’m taking a little bit longer time to do it and I know you’ll forgive me and understand. And I’m not gonna walk out the back door. I’m going to go out... I mean, I’m not going to hide out here after the service. I’ll be around for you to shake my hand. And if you don’t, I’m not going to be offended or hurt at you. But I’m gonna... I’m just gonna tell you I’m gonna preach it like the Lord helps me to... That’s all I can do. I can’t do nothing else.

If I see tomorrow night I’m wrong, I’ll come back and say, “Wait a minute. Help me. Let me show you here. I missed something. Let me read it to you.” I don’t mind doing that. But I’ve just got a great hope of what the Lord is going to do. And because I know who I am, and I know who
I belong to, and I know where I fit, I know I’m His Bride, I know I’m not going to miss it, no matter how it comes, how it happens. But I just love the blessings of the Lord and the good spirit that we have tonight.

Is there somebody that needs special prayer? You’ve got a special burden on your heart tonight or you’ve got a special infirmity in your body? And we’ll take time to have prayer on the weekend. But if you’ve got a need tonight, we don’t want to send you home like that without some help. We know some don’t feel good. We know the Lord is more than able to lift you up, isn’t He?

Let’s fellowship a little bit right now and sing that. Let’s go around and greet one another. And if while you’re greetin’ one another, you feel led to pray for somebody, do that.

Now, listen. Two things we’re talking about here. John saw a number that no man could number. It was a blood-washed number before the Throne. They were given white robes and palm branches. I believe I’m in that number. I believe he saw me there. He was caught up to this day. The Bible said he was caught up in the Spirit to the Lord’s Day. This is the Lord’s Day. It wasn’t Sunday. Sunday’s never been the Lord’s Day. He had nothin’ to do with that pagan day of Sunday. That was not His Day. He didn’t choose that day above any of the other days. And, so, when he was speaking about the Lord’s Day, he was speaking about
another day – the Day of the Revelation of the Lord, the day of the fullness of the Revelation of Jesus Christ – this day.

And when he was caught up, he saw a number that no man can number. I read today where the prophet of God was talking about being caught beyond the curtain of time. And he saw his loved ones. He saw his wife. He saw the saints of the Lord. He said, “Who are these?” “These are your people.” He said, “Are they all Branhams?” He said, “No, these are the ones who came to salvation, or whatever, through your Message or through your preaching, and so forth.”

And you know the rest of the story. And at the end of that he said something very precious. He said that the voice spoke to him and said, “Everything that you’ve ever loved will be there.” You know, that’s a precious promise. I mean, that’s a big promise. I hope some of us can have faith to kind of claim that. You know? Because we would love to see our loved ones come to the Faith and come to Truth, be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

So if you come to somebody and hug ’em and you feel like you should pray for them, do. Nobody here’s going to get mad. If they do, they needed prayer. That’s why they got mad. They needed it. How many of you admit we all need prayer. Hold up your hand. So see, that’s everybody. So if you get to somebody and the Lord speaks to you, do that. But while you’re walking around, sing with me, will you?
“I’m in that number...”

“John saw that number...”

I want you to have plenty of time to finish your fellowship so I’m just going to ask you to stand right where you are and we’re going to pray a dismissal prayer. And then you can have plenty of time to love one another.

Father, thank You for Your grace and glory. Thank You for Your presence among us tonight. Thank You for the sweet spirit of Your people. We pray, Lord, that You’ll cover us by the glory of God as we go home. Give us safety. I know the brothers, especially, they’re working so hard during the day. I know their bodies are telling it. But I pray that You’ll give them special rest, oh Lord, in the bed tonight. Raise them up to finish the jobs tomorrow and still be fresh.

Lord, bless the sisters who labor so hard with their children and keepin’ the house and all the things that just get heavy – the laundry and all that gets so heavy during a meeting. I pray special blessings upon each and every one.

And Lord, help our children and babies to sleep good in the night and be healthy and strong. And we just thank You. We look forward to the rest of the services. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, Yeshua, the Messiah, we pray. Amen.
You’re dismissed to go tonight in the Name of the Lord. Love one another.
Pastor Steven L. Shelley’s life of ministry was prophesied before he was even born. His grandmother received a word that “the child your daughter-in-law is carrying right now is chosen. He will carry the Gospel and many souls will be won to the kingdom of God, and he’ll start at a very early age.”

Just like it was spoken, Pastor Shelley was filled with Holy Ghost and began preaching in 1975 at the age of seven years old and was pastoring full time by the age of seventeen. People were astounded by the revelation and conviction coming from this very young man. But it wasn’t only the wisdom of the Word that touched them but the evidence of the supernatural power of God that operated in his life.

His first experience with the supernatural was at the age of three when the Lord appeared in his room one night and told him things that were to come. He was told that his mother and father would separate (they divorced less than two years later) and that he would preach the Gospel and his life would not be ordinary. His life has been marked by the supernatural since that time and he has had countless visions, dreams, visitations and revelatory experiences.
Although his childhood was not an easy one God kept him through every hardship and gave him the grace not to be pulled into a lot of the traps that young people commonly face. As a result of that he was able to lead many of his fellow grade school students and even teachers to the Lord.

His Pentecostal grandmother, Mildred Shelley, who had a great spiritual impact on him, pastored a church in Columbus Georgia and he would frequently be invited to preach for her. He also began traveling all over the United States holding tent revivals where he would preach and pray for the sick. Tremendous outstanding miracles and deliverances would take place and revivals would last for weeks on end.

His grandmother passed away in 1990, leaving him in charge of the church, New Hope Prayer Center. In 1993, God opened the doors for 60 acres of land to be purchased in Smiths Station, Alabama and instructed him to name the property Eagle’s Refuge Holiness Campground. By divine direction, the church in Columbus Georgia was sold in 2003 and a new building was constructed and dedicated in 2004. We are currently worshipping in this building in Alabama.

Pastor Shelley has ministered in 65 countries and seen an outstanding harvest for the Kingdom in every one. There is one foreign country that he feels identified with more than any other and that is the nation of Israel. When he was 11 years old his grandmother took him on tour to
Israel where he met a part of his destiny. While visiting Yad Vashem he had a vision where he saw himself speaking to dry bones, as the prophet Ezekiel did and saw them come to life. At that young age he knew that he would one day return to Israel and see that vision come to pass. He didn’t visit Israel again until 2002 at which time the Lord opened a door for ministry in the Land. In 2003 the Lord opened a door for our ministry to rent two apartments in Jerusalem where prophetic prayer and praise ushers daily. (For more information about Jerusalem Revival Center please visit us at Revival.org)

Serving the Lord with him is his lovely wife, Stacey Ryan, who frequently travels with him in ministry. They have four beautiful children: Benjamin Judah (1998), Joshua River (2001), Olivia Zion (2003), and Moriah Destiny (2006). His mother Jane Shelley was radically saved in 1985 and is an active part of his life and ministry.

So many wonderful promises and prophecies have been given to Pastor Shelley and the New Hope Revival Ministries. We thank God for the great foundation that has been laid by the prayers and tears of saints who have gone on before us. We look forward to the future knowing that the best is yet to come!
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“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Hebrews 13:8