

From The Sermons Of WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM



And Abraham was the elected Church. Lot was the sleeping virgin or the formal church. And then there was the sinner, the Sodomite.

WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

33 Here Abraham, he wasn't down in Sodom seeing how much he could get. He was up there in fields in obedience to God. Probably Sarah didn't have the new dresses that Mrs. Lot had and didn't keep up with all the fashions. Yet they said there wasn't a woman in the land as fair as she was. She was a mother, and she also loved her husband so well that she didn't tighten up her dresses, and get out on the street, and

carry on the way modern Mrs. Lot does, and things like that. She called her own husband lord. And the Bible said, "Whose daughters you are, as long as you obey the Word." That's right.

There she was. And we see them out there. Time's poor, the herds going down. Everything seemed to be... But Abraham was abiding in the promise. Amen. That's where we make our mistake, brother. It isn't our organizations makes the mistake; it's us in the organization makes the mistake. See? It's all right as long as you-if you'll abide in the promise. But when you do get into these things you begin starchy, want to act like the rest of the world. And that's the reason God walks right away from it.

I'm looking in the face of one of the greatest historians there is in the United States. And I'll tell you—Brother Paul Boyd, setting right there. And I'll tell you one thing, you show me one speck of history where a church ever come into an organization if it didn't fall and never rise again. Find it: never did, never will. It isn't the will of God. We'll get on that next week.

34 Notice, but now as we go ahead in with Abraham. Abrahams abide in the land; he abode right there where God told him to. And as long as he stayed there, God was with him. When he moved out of the land, a curse come on him. As soon as you move away from the promise of God, then just get ready for trouble. That's exactly right.

Now, we find out that one day he was setting out there. Let's give it a little drama so these little fellows here can catch it. Now, I see Abraham setting in the tent door one morning. There was a big oak tree in front of his place there. They claim the oak still

stands. They got it preserved, they say. Well, there where he had his tent pitched, out there on the desert... Lot was down there, my, I guess if they'd had such a thing, he'd had a big cigar and mayor of the city, you know. And Mrs. Lot and her daughters and all of them going around to all the fashion shows, watching the TV, and—and pattern after the-the-the styles of those days. But Sarah stood true; Abraham stood true; they

stayed with God, stayed out there.

35 Now, what happened? One day while Abraham was setting there, along about eleven o'clock in the day, I imagine. He looked, coming up through there, and here come three Men with dust all over Their clothes, walking along.

You know there's something about it, you can pass right by God's blessing and not know it if you're not

prayed up. I think about that, prayed up.

There was a little Irish woman come over from Ireland not long ago, and they said she was on a ship and she's was... Along about, oh, about time they was getting in New York a great typhoon swept out across the ocean, and the ship was just sending out SOS's, and it was just diving from place to place. The bands had been playing; they'd been doing all the rockand-roll that they could and all like that. And they started band started playing... The Captain said, "Everybody pray; everybody pray, the way you do in your church." And the bands begin to play "Nearer, My God To Thee." And they all begin going on.

36 A little Irish woman begin walking up and down the floor. And the Captain said, "If we can only hold this storm for thirty minutes, we'll come into the harbor, drop anchor." Said, "But if we can't hold it for thirty minutes," said, "we'll be at the bottom of the sea."

That little Irish woman said, "Glory to God. Hallelujah."

So the Captain walked up, said, "Lady, did you understand what I said?" He sa...

She said, "I understood you plainly, sir."

He said, "I said in thirty minutes from now we may be in the bottom of the sea, if we can't hold out thirty minutes in this storm."

Said, "I understood what you meant." Said, "Hallelujah. Praise God."

Said, "Why don't you pray?"

She said, "I'm prayed up. Don't have to do any more praying." Said, "I was prayed up to begin with."

Well, said, "Why could you say hallelujah like that and knowing that you might be in the bottom of sea?"

She said, "Sir, I'm on my road from Ireland to see a daughter of mine that lives in New York." She said, "I got a daughter in glory and one in New York. If we go down I'll see that one up there. If we land I'll see that one there. I'll see one of them in thirty minutes." That's right. Prayed up... Amen. That's the way to stay, prayed up. Be ready for it. She was going to meet one of them in thirty minutes. She knowed it either... It didn't make any difference to her, up there or down here, it did she was going to see one of them in thirty minutes. Now, that's good, that's fine. That's the way the church ought to be all the time, prayed up.

37 Abraham was prayed up, setting out there. Lot didn't know, maybe down in there what was going on out there in the desert. But when Abraham looked, there was something about that Man walking out there in front that he recognized that looked a little strange. Oh, my. Strange looking Man... He run out, and if you notice, the very first thing he said, "My..." Not "My Lords." I certainly differ with that Jewish brother that made that remark the other night at Shreveport. Not "My Lords," but, "My Lord." L-o-r-d, one. "My (capital) L-o-r-d, won't You come in." Now, any of you notice the translator on there, that was Elohim, Abraham called Him. Ca...

Brought Him in. Said, "Won't You come in, set down. I'll fetch You a little water, I'll wash Your feet. Take a morsel of bread." And said, "Then You... Satisfy Your-Your desire, then You can go on wherever You're going." I can just imagine slipping through and say, "Sarah, Sarah, shh. Somebody's out there; get some flour ready right quick, or the cornmeal."

38 And how many ever seen a sifter? Is any women...

Well, what part of Kentucky you from? I used to see mom with that old sifter, go up to the meal barrel, and had a little round thing like a cheese crate and screen wire over the bottom of it, and dip it up like this, and she had an old wedge in there; she'd rub the lumps through when the old meal would get wet. Did you ever see that done?

You know the other day I bought my wife a coffee mill down here, one of them kind

you grind yourself. Why, I haven't ground one since I was a little boy. I-it used to be mine to clean the light chimney, you know, get in there with big old moon and owl on the lamp chimney, you remember that? Have to run my hands down there and clean them...

39 And I sees Abraham run through and say, "Say, get knead some of the—the—the meal right and get it ready; make some cakes on the

hearth." Went out and had a servant to take the calf and dress it. And come out and feed these Men. Now, they act like They were Strangers, as from another country. And They was just passing through. And so I just imagine maybe that Abraham got the old fly bush and got out there, you know, after dark and shoo... How many knows what a fly bush is? Now, I know these's Kentuckians here. Yes, sir. I remember

when company'd come we'd set them out there and take that old fly bush, and I had to stand, my poor old arm would just nearly break like that, shooing the flies, while mama's cooking, then have to stand at that stove and wipe the sweat and—with the fly brush, you know, going like this so the flies wouldn't get around where we eat. We was raised poor. And so, take the butter and the cream and put it down in the milk house, or

not the milk house but a little old place, spring down there, and cover over the crock, you know, and milk get—cream get about that deep. I slipped in many times and got a cup of it, when she was trying to save it. Oh, what, it was good.

40 Now, we find out that Abraham took this food out there and set it down before these Men and They eat. Now, Abraham was curious to find out what Their journey was because he knowed that

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One of them there, that main One, was God. He knew that was God; he called Him Elohim. So now, what did it represent?

We find out two of them rose up and went on down into Sodom. They were going down there to preach and to call out those that would be called out. And we see that when he got down there and begin to preach, that they didn't do many miracles, just smote them blind. That was...

Preaching the Gospel smites the blind. But there was...

41 Now, remember, there is three classes always at the judgment. We find out the Bride comes back with Christ, in Daniel. Ten thousands times ten thousands came with the Ancient of days. The judgment was set, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which was the Book of Life. See, the sleeping virgin come up for the judgment. And a

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book of the ungodly was opened, and He separated the sheep from the goats, but the raptured church come back with Him.

Jesus comes three times. He came first to redeem His Bride. He comes the second time to catch Her away. He comes the third time with Her: To redeem His Bride, to receive His Bride, and to bring Him and His Bride back as King and Queen over the earth, set on His father, David's throne.

42 And now, we know there's three classes of people all the time. We notice it today. There has been Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostals. There is the sinner, the ungodly, the sleeping virgin, and the true virgin. Always. Now, we find out there was the Sodomites, there was Lot, the lukewarm church, and here was Abraham had separated

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hisself from them and was living apart. Now, the very word "church" means "separation."

Israel was the people of God until they came into the wilderness, and being called out it was then the church of God. "Church" means "called out, set aside." And Abraham was the elected Church. Lot was the sleeping virgin or the formal church. And then there was the sinner, the Sodomite.

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43 Now, watch, the Sodomite and the formals down there, Lot in his formal condition... Now, he was a good man, no doubt. It said, "The sins of the city vexed his righteous soul." But there was a elected Church, called, predestinated by God, Abraham, called when he was seventy-five years old, given a promise, to let the trial say it would be for sure. Wait till we get over in a little farther here where He made it positive

sure. All right. Told him about the child he was going to have. And Abraham did not stagger at the promise of God. No matter how many extra dollars laid down here, and how rich he could be in Sodom, and what he could do, he stayed with God, kept the promise. That's the elect church. There's some of them in the Methodists, some in the Baptists, some in the Pentecostals. The elected Church will be called out of all

the groups. That's right. That's the one that hears the voice.

61-0211 - Abraham Rev. William Marrion Branham

You know there's something about it, you can pass right by God's blessing and not know it if you're not prayed up. I think about that, prayed up.

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But if she just knowed, there was more than a caravan coming through. There was a host of the Lord coming that way



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

15 Now, Satan was trying to block Abraham and Sarah, because he knew that there was an Angelic visitation coming.

And then when everything rises, all out of order, then we know something's wrong. Now, I believe, maybe, if we would listen to Satan, we might miss seeing it like Sarah did.

Let's think that Sarah, being that she'd done what she did, let's think that she was kindy a little fussy that morning, that she might have said, "Abraham, you know the supplies are getting low here, and the herdsmen says thethe pasture is all dried up and the water holes. I think you made the wrong decision when you chose to come up here and let Lot and Mrs. Lot, and their family live down there with plenty.

Why the other day, or sometime ago, rather, when I went to the city, why, Miss Lot had on one of the prettiest dresses I ever seen. It was styled by the Egyptians. Why, a camel caravan come through, and she got the new styles. There is no such things as them caravans and styles coming throughout here.

But if she just knowed, there was more than a caravan coming through. There was a host of the Lord coming that way.

16 And I might have heard her say something like this. "You ought to have seen the new hairdo that she had." You know, a woman, sixty years old, trying to look twenty... But that just things that attracts your attention—something from the things of God, that's what I'm trying to get at. "And you should have seen her."

And poor old Abraham, faithful old brother, I—that didn't shake him one bit. He just walks over and gets his chair and sets down in the door of the tent. I like that.

Did you notice, when the Angels come to Lot, Lot was setting in the gate, but Abraham was setting in the door. The gate comes into the yard, but the door goes into the house. I like to set in the door, on the altar, close as I can get to Him. That's where my expectations is, on the altar, waiting for His appearing.

17 Abraham gets his chair and sets down and see the faithful old servant of God bows his head. And maybe Sarah, a little fussy and going on, but he just let it go and begin to think back, "How many great blessings God has given me..."

You know, sons of God are led by the Spirit of God. You believe that? Then while he was setting there, thinking of the time that God appeared to him in the Name of the Almighty, the El Shaddai, the Bosom, the breast of the woman, the strength Giver.

Now, if you notice the word is a compound word, which means Shaddai, not a breast, but breasted (two). He was wounded for our transgressions, with His stripes we were healed. Oh, I'm so glad of that. Eithereither promise of God's breast, He's the strong One, the strength Giver. If you're Abraham, old man, ninetynine years old, said, "Abraham, I am the breasted God. Just lay a hold of My

promise and nurse your strength from Me." That's what it is to every believer, that'll take God's Word, and don't doubt It, but just hold onto It, and nurse your strength.

18 It's like the baby, laying on the mother's bosom. All the time it's nursing, it's satisfied. When a real Christian can get a hold of a promise of God, and believe it's for them, he's satisfied while he's a nursing the strength, coming... He won't complain a bit; he's just satisfied. Oh, I love that satisfaction of knowing that God said so.

While the aged old saint was setting there with his head down, praying no doubt, it was then when he lifted up his head and he saw three Men coming towards the tent. Oh, he jumped quickly. It must have been the Spirit, said, "Go to them."

You know, there's something about Spirit filled

people that recognizes the Presence of God. I don't know why it is, but it must be that they—they got something in them that magnetize them to that Spirit of God. And he recognized that there was something.

Even Lot, in his backslidden condition, when those two evangelical Angels, messengers, evangelists, or whatever you wish to call them, come down there, Lot, setting in the gate, a little spark was still left in his heart. He recognized that it was Angels. It was messengers from God.

19 While Abraham went to meet Them, he turned Them aside and said, "Come in and set down. Set under the oak a little while and let me fetch a little water and wash Your feet, and I'll give You a morsel of bread. And just rest a little bit, then You may go on Your way." Oh, when he set Him down there, though they didn't look any different from any other men, because They were dressed, dust on their clothes and come from some other country, probably their feet dusty and their clothes ragged, but Abraham knew inside there, there was something real. The Spirit declared it. Why? He kept hisself in a spiritual atmosphere all the time, that he could recognize right from wrong, all the time.

That's the way the Christian ought to do today, is keep yourself prayed up, under a spiritual atmosphere. Always—never seeing the the bad side, looking to the good side. You are children of God, expecting His blessings.

20 After he stopped Them, I can see him run in and grab Sarah by the hand and say, "Come aside, darling, just a moment. I want to tell you something. I believe we're getting our day of visitation right now."

Out through the herd he went, and got a little calf, and dressed it, and brought it out, and fed the men. Two of them raised up their heads and went on to their appointed place to preach the Gospel to that country that was blinded by their preaching.

How we ought to think today, that the preaching of the gospel blinds the unbeliever. No wonder they can't see: they're blinded. God says they have eyes, but can't see, ears but can't hear.

God, if anything, I want Him to do for me, is open my spiritual eyes that I might recognize Him and look around and see Him, for He's everywhere. I want to see Him and be so acquainted with Him that I'll know Him on the very first sight. I'll recognize that It's God. That's my heart's desire, be as Abraham was.

And remember, if we be dead in Christ, we are Abraham's seed. And Abraham recognized those Men as they come up as being Messengers of God. For the way he treated them, it proved that he knowed that They were God's Messengers.

21 And after the other two had went to their appointed place to preach the Gospel, this One Who he called LORD (and that "Lord's" capital L-O- R-D,) Elohim, the great, mighty Jehovah, He was in flesh, a Man.

Someone said to me some time ago, said, "Now, wait just a minute, Billy. You don't really believe that that was God?"

I said, "I sure believe It was God."

Said, "How in the world could God ever be in a human form?"

I said, "Well, you might think it was a Theophany, but it wasn't, because He eat the flesh of the calf, drink milk, eat corn bread, set there, talk; He was a Man. God was showing something."

Oh, why it's easy for our God to just reach over and get a handful of calcium, potash, and petroleum. We're made out of sixteen different elements of the world. He made all the elements, just reach over, and grab a handful of elements, say "Whew. [Brother Branham

makes a blowing sound.-Ed.] Step in that, Gabriel." Reach over and get another, "Whew. Step in that Michael." Get another one for Hisself, "Whew. Step in there..." Why sure, He will call me someday, and I may not no-be no more than that, and He will call me back into my body at the resurrection. We got the mighty God for our God. Sure I believe it was Him, and then disappear and vanish.

He just used that just as long as He wanted to, then just send it back to the dust again. He will use you as long as He wants to, and then send you back to the dust. He will use me as long as He wants to, and then I'll go back to the dust. But oh, that glorious thought, that that glorious truth, that someday He will call and we'll rise from the dust. We're looking for that hour.

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22 And here He is now and Sarah. I... Let's just break in on her for a minute. There she set, back there, say, "I wonder how many fanatics my husband can entertain?" And there he's setting out there, you know, and Abraham just interested. Maybe the old flybush, you know, fan it, the flies away, and saying the...

Well, I see the Angel takes his chair, maybe, and—and leans back toward—His back toward the tent. And Sarah listening through the tent, you know, kindly eardropping, you know, and listening through the tent... And she was kind of in an awful mood that morning.

You don't see things when you come to church in that kind of a mood. You just no need of trying it; you just might as well have stayed home; you won't get nothing out of it. Go home in a s— When you come to church, come prayed up, come in the atmosphere, come expecting.

23 Abraham knew that the time of the promise was coming close. It had to be; he was a hundred years old. He was expecting it any time. He watched every minute. When He run in, told Sarah, "This, I believe, is our day of visitation." And she kinda looked at him with them big eyes and thought, "Well, Abraham, you've said that a long time." But you know,

there will come a time when it'll be so, if God said so.

Then when the Angel took His chair and leaned back, He said, "Abraham, seeing that you have got favor with God, that you are an heir of the world, and-and you're going to be father of many nations, and you've believed that since you was seventy-five years old (twenty-five years), and otherwise you've waited for this promised child by Sarah, and now, I'm not going to

keep this from you, what I'm going to do. I'm going to visit you, according to the time of life."

And you know, Sarah in there, eardropping, kindly halfway in an upset mood from her condition that morning, she's thought in her heart, "Now, isn't that a silly thing. Think, in our day, me an old woman-as old as I am... Here I am ninety years old. There sets my husband Abraham, a hundred years

old. Well, I-it's not been with me as women for fifty years, and Abraham... Well, we've been married since we were about seventeen, and him about twenty-seven... Well, how... How could that be? How could it be?" See? She had herself all out of condition to receive it when God brought it. Oh, my, don't never get that in your heart. Be open. Be ready. She missed it. She failed to see it.

I-maybe if—if we don't watch, friends, the church is going to fail to see it. Let's not look for church hairdos and new dresses. Let's look for the Holy Spirit to come in the supernatural and raise some things.

The church don't need a face-lift; it needs a birth, the Holy Ghost to come into the church, bring back people, and that believes the supernatural, and holds on and waiting for the coming of

the Lord, as if it might be any hour, living in them conditions.

24 Here she was in that shape. Saying, "Now, how could that happen in our modern time? How could it happen to me in my condition?" But it happened just the same.

Abraham, out there, waiting with anticipation... You see, it wasn't made known to her; it was made known to them that was looking for it. That's the way it comes yet, to those who are looking. So he was watching, Abraham was. He said, "Yes, my Lord. Yes, that's right. The promise was, and—and I've believed it all along."

He said, "Now, Abraham, just about the time of life, it will be each month, well, I'm going to visit you. And you're going to have that baby."

And Sarah, you know to herself, went, "Hah!" laughed kind of to herself. Now watch. Abraham gets a sign now. See, Sarah was too flusterated, too—too un-...concerned about the new hairdo she seen, or—or something else.

Sometimes we're too much flusterated about the fellowthe other fellow that's got the biggest denomination, or, "His congregation dresses better than mine." or, "They've got a bigger church down on the corner than we got." What difference does that make? I want God. I don't care if I

have to worship Him on the street corner in a coal shed. Wherever it might be, I want God. Let me have my heart in condition if I wear overalls, so I can watch God and see His move and recognize Him, not pass it by.

25 He said, "Abraham, where is your wife Sarah?" A Stranger, never seen Him before... "Where is your wife Sarah?" And how did He know that he had a wife, and how did He know that her name was Sarah?

Said, "She's in the tent behind you."

And when Sarah laughed, He said, "Why did she laugh?" He caught the sign. He knew what it was. Sarah didn't get it. She even come forth and tried to deny it. God would've destroyed her upon that, if she hadn't been a part of Abraham.

And lot of times, our unbelief would destroy us, if it

wasn't for the Blood of Jesus Christ. God can't destroy us now, because the Blood of Jesus Christ keeps the—God off of us. We are part of Christ, just as Sarah was part of Abraham, for we are the Bride of Christ. And we people who's borned of the Spirit of God, ought to wake up, get out of our stews, and watch for the supernatural sign of the coming of the Lord Jesus, His signs that He promised.

26 Remember, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said that same thing would repeat again: "As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man," that God would be working through human flesh, doing the same thing that He did then. Oh God, help us to wake up! The day of visitation is here. You say, "Oh, God doesn't send Angels any more." The Holy Spirit is that Angel. The Holy Spirit is that

Person. The Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "He, the Holy Ghost, when He comes, He will do the works that He did." He'd be with us, even in us, and He would bring things to our remembrance that He'd taught and would show us things to come: "The works that I do shall He also." Now, we're living in that day. We're living in the time.

Watch... "As it was in the days of Sodom..." But you know what? The other class of

people down in Sodom didn't get that sign, just the calledout group got that sign, just those who recognized it, those who understood it. That's the way it is today. The Holy Spirit doing His works... The great big groups of people and the masses of the world... And it's becoming a modern Sodom and Gomorrah. You know it is.

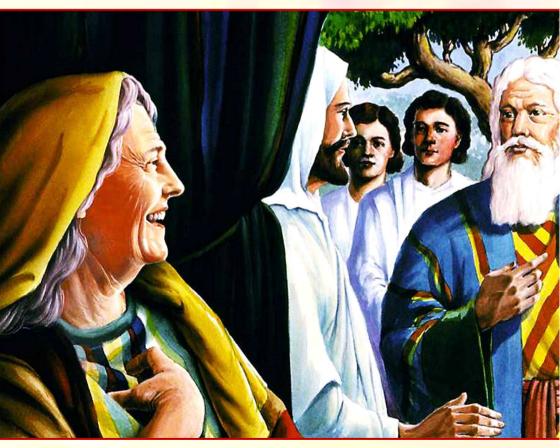
27 Why, I've read in a—in a newspaper here in Los Angeles, here some time ago (I was flying over Los

Angeles), and seen that homosexuals was on the increase of forty percent over the year before: Man taking man to room and living with them like wives, perversion. That's exactly what the sin of Sodom was. And that's the thing we got. Even our government's full of it. The whole nation's surrounded by it, communism, everything else breaking it up.

It ain't the robin that pecks on the apple that kills the

apple; it's the worm at the core. I'm not afraid of Germany or some of these other nations. It's our own rotteness among us, getting away from God, that's killing this nation. It's rottening it. Cold, formalism, coming into the Spirit-filled churches is cooling it off. That's the thing's going to kill us. Not just looking for something here, a material of the world, and big jobs, and fine times, and big promises, and all these kind of things, take your eyes off of that. Wake up to the fact that God still remains God, and He's the same God that promised the signs. Hallelujah. I believe He's here. You believe that? Let's bow our heads.

60-0328 - Is There Anything Too Hard For The Lord? Rev. William Marrion Branham And Sarah, in the tent, laughed. And He said, "Why did Sarah laugh?" What was He showing? "Why did Sarah laugh?" It was just a few hours before destruction, when that took place



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

52 Our Lord was giving this stern warning to the people of His generation, the people that were very religious. And He said, "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth to Life, and few there will be that will find It." Now, it wasn't because they wasn't religious. They were very religious. And because that they had trusted in the church and in certain creeds and had denominations, and

believed (to an extent) in God, they thought everything was all right. But He was telling them that there would be few that would enter in.

53 And I'm wondering this morning if I could not liken that generation to this generation. See, it was at the closing of the Jewish dispensation, and He was referring back to different ones and different endings of different dispensations, and was telling them that the very thing that had been done in former dispensations was being done before them. And they failed to recognize it. And let's see some of the things that He was speaking about.

54 They, for instance, could not believe that God was in that Man. That was the biggest obstacle that they had to climb over, was how Him being Man yet made Himself God. They could not see how God could dwell in human flesh. And in all ages, in all times, God has always dwelt in man. Man is God's agent. In every generation, God speaks to His people through human lips. He always chooses someone or something that He can use.

55 And He referred to them, as being such a stumble, about Abraham. He said, told them, "If you call yourself the 'children of Abraham,' Abraham your 'father,' he saw My day and rejoiced to see it. Abraham, the prophet." And no doubt that Jesus was referring to them that He had proved to He was them that Messiah, because the sign of Messiah was following Him. And it had been that way through every generation, that, the sign of the Messiah. But yet Him making Himself God, the Messiah Himself, that stumbled them. They could not understand it.

56 Now, when Abraham (who they called their father)

met God, He was also in flesh, because He eat the meat of a calf, eat corn bread, and drinking milk, and butter, in the presence of Abraham, and yet He was God. Abraham recognized Him, God, and called Him "Elohim," which is the Almighty Jehovah. A Man wearing clothes, with dust on His Body, and set under a tree, for shade, and eat meat and drink milk. Then those cold, cruel-hearted, selfish, righteous Jews could not

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believe Him to be the Son of God, and called Abraham their father. And He was letting them know that He was doing the same things, in His flesh, that God did in another flesh when He met their Abraham. And father, Abraham believed it. And they couldn't believe it.

57 You see, when Abraham was sitting under his tent because he had made a choice, and that choice is brought before every person that's born in this world. The

tree of good and evil is set before every person. And when Lot, his nephew, and their herdsmen begin to argue about the grounds; Abraham, being a just man, said to them, "Just let there be no arguments among us. You just choose your way of going." That place comes into every believer's life. And it's before you this morning, and it's before me.

58 Lot didn't think that he was going to backslide, but he went to looking towards

Sodom where things were easy. And there's many times that we look towards the easy way. "I'll join this certaincertain church, and, you see, nobody will say anything against it, because it's the biggest church in the city." The easy way! Many times we do that, when, we're wrong!

59 Remember, if you follow Christ, you'll be hated by people, for all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions. And if you come to Christ, you'll not come by

any church or any denomination, or any creed. You'll come by the Blood, that's the only avenue in. And you cannot bring no one with you, you'll come alone and stand on your own confession and your own faith. You'll not ride in on the pastor, or on your mother's faith. You'll come as an individual when you come to God! And many times we make those foolish choices.

60 What if Lot, when he seen everything easy...? He

saw where there was much money and much popularity, because he'd be a stranger, and a smart man, educated, a lot of psychology, and he could do certain things and yet maintain his religion. He thought, "I've got faith in God, so I'll just go down into Sodom and I-I'll make some extra money, and I'll become a great man, maybe a wonderful preacher." See, you have a choice to make.

61 And the laity has a choice to make. "I'll go down

this certain church to there. Oh, everybody in town thinks this is the most! Why, the mayor of the city belongs to this church." Now, he could belong to a church that was really good, but still you have to judge that church and its people by the Scriptures. Sometimes they go because it's a popular way, the—the people dress better that go to certain places. And there's where we make a-a fatal mistake. Now notice this.

62 And Abraham, the only thing he could do was take second choice. And sometimes second choice is better than first, if it's took like that. Notice, wasn't long, when Lot seen the big city, he didn't see his wife turning to a pillar of salt, though, he didn't see the fire burning up the city. But Abraham took the way with the Lord's despised few. He stayed in the deserts.

63 And, yet, what if Sarah would have said...Now remember, Sarah was the prettiest woman in all the land. There was no woman as fair as Sarah. Everyone, seen her, fell in love with her. Now, how easy it would have been for Sarah to take that kind of a choice. But she chose to stay with Abraham.

64 Oh, women, don't let the devil blind you, being popular and joining *this* and *that*. You stay with Christ! For, the hour is at hand, great destructions are laying ahead, worse than Sodom and Gomorrah, for this country. Sodom and Gomorrah will be a credit to it.

65 Now, while Abraham had took the way that was given him by God, and had the leanness of the land, he wasn't prosperous at all. But yet he knew one thing, he served God and he believed God.

66 So one day there came three men, and they were well dusty and worn, and Abraham felt sorry for them, he said, "Come by and sit down under the oak just for a little while." And while he was standing there talking to them, he recognized that they weren't just ordinary men, by their talk. They were different. And Abraham went and killed a calf and had it dressed, and had Sarah to make bread and get ready to feed them.

67 Now remember, two of them were Angels, Angels in human flesh, and one of them was God Himself. And the One that was God had His back turned to the tent.

68 And Sarah stayed in the tent. I like to see a woman keep her place like that, not going out and telling her husband what to do, and everytime someone comes around. But she stayed in the tent. No doubt, maybe washing the dishes or doing something.

69 And this One Who was God, He kept looking around towards Sodom, and He told them what He was going to do. And two Angels went down in there to preach the Gospel. But One stayed in the back, that was the One that was God, and He said, "I'm not going to keep from Abraham the secrets that I know, because he's going to be the heir of the world."

70 Oh, we got a right this morning, church, to know the secrets of the Coming of the Lord. For, "Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst, they shall be filled. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Then, if the church of the living God is to inherit the earth, there is no secrets kept from it.

71 "All the Father has told Me, I have told you," said Jesus. And they could not believe Him.

72 So in the days of Abraham, as He was referring to them, He said that as Abraham was talking to the Angel, and His back was turned to the tent, and He told Abraham He was going to visit him with a child. And Sarah, in the tent, laughed. And He said, "Why did Sarah laugh?" What was He showing? "Why did Sarah laugh?" It was just a few hours before destruction, when that took place. Just before destruction, that fire come from the heavens and burnt up the city, and that sign was performed.

73 And Jesus said, "You do error," to the great doctors of

divinity, to a religious nation where literally millions were believers. He said, "You do error, not knowing the Scriptures neither the Power of God." To a generation like that, that were well trained men, that were scholars and raised church. When a child was born, it was the property of the church. You had to be an Israelite. Eight days after your birth, it was circumcision, and you were an Israelite to begin with. And the priesthood came from the Levites, which

were trained through hundreds of years in the Scriptures. Yet Jesus said, "You do error, not knowing the Scriptures!" They knowed them in their own book of learning, they knowed it by their catechisms, they knowed it by their own theology. But Jesus said, "You don't know It, the Scriptures, neither do you know the Power of God. If you'd have knowed Abraham, you'd knowed Me. If you were Abraham's children, you'd knowed Me, because

Abraham rejoiced when he seen My day, for he foreseen the day. When I stood before him back there, in a body of flesh, and performed this, he knew it was Me, and he called Me 'Elohim.' But here I do the same thing before you, and you call Me 'Beelzebub.'"

"Oh," they'd say, "we have Abraham to our father."

"Call Abraham your father'?"

74 He said, "Why, we, we belong to the church. We are a religious nation. We are a great people. We are God's people!"

Jesus said, "You are the devil, he's your father."

75 Would I liken that generation to this one, today, when there is literally millions of people that profess Christianity, and know no more about God than a Hottentot would know about an Egyptian night. There's men and women today, literally millions of professing Christians that claim Christ, don't know the first principle of the Power of His resurrection, and never tasted His goodness. They've never felt His Power. Their eyes are blinded to the Truth.

76 Said, "You are blind, leaders of the blind. Won't...the...if the blind leads the blind, won't they all fall in the ditch?"

77 Then they thought, "We are Christians. We are believers. We belong to the highest churches there is. Our rabbis are the best trained scholars they are." And yet Jesus told them they didn't even know the Scriptures.

78 See how God's hid it from the eyes of the wise and prudent, and reveal it to babes such as will learn? Oh, the great Power and the infinite-cy of God! How good He is to those that desire to walk upright before Him! He'll withhold no good thing.

> 59-0301M - Strait Is The Gate Rev. William Marrion Branham

Judgment begins at the house of God! Not parties; judgment!

WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

92 The world today, America, doesn't want the Gospel. They want entertainment. They've got to have something to entertain them; a lot of fancy music, or something like that, or some kind of a party, some kind of a weiner roast. Which, them things are all right, outside the church. But the church is where judgment ought to be preached in the Power of the

resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and a warning. Judgment begins at the house of God! Not parties; judgment!

93 Lot was warned. And when the Angels, though he didn't know they were Angels, when they went down, their message was to Sodom, "Come out of this sinful place! God has provided a way of escape for you. Come out of this sinful place!"

94 Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Sodom." Look what kind of a life they were living. And Jesus compared that day with this day. Sinful!

95 Watch when Lot went to tell his people. They laughed at him, made fun of him. "And the sins of the city, vexed his righteous soul." The Angels' message didn't stir them, had no effect on them. But they were asked to come out, because judgment was upon the city, and God was going to bring a storm of fire upon the city. And they refused to walk.

They refused to come out. They were satisfied with their sins.

96 People today seem to be so comfortable in sin, because we own a new car, because we can eat three meals a day, sleep on a clean bed. That's wonderful. But, that would be good, but we forget God when prosperity comes like that. I think we've been so. We preachers and we Christians has been so interested in—in the program

of building our churches and getting a better church, or something like that, or a bigger church, better pews. Or, you know how and what I mean. And we've left off the main thing: judgment, righteousness, Power of the Holy Ghost, resurrection, Eternal judgment.

97 The Angel never failed to preach the message. Although they tried to stop Them, but Their message went on just the same.

98 Now, did you notice, it's just like a man that says, "I'm going to refuse to believe the sun is shining. I won't have nothing else to do with the sun." Closes his eyes, and goes down in his basement of his house, and said, "I just refuse to know the sun is shining."

99 "Why," you say, "Brother Branham, that man, would be something mentally wrong with him."

100 Well, a man that will reject Jesus Christ, has the same grounds. The Holy Spirit more real than the is sunshine. The sun will fail, but the Holy Spirit can't fail. It don't only light for the sense of sight, but It lights for the soul, a Light of glory that leads us to God, that rejects...or projects, rather, Calvary to us, and the sufferings of the Lord Jesus; the oncoming judgment, and the escape for those who

want to come. I'd rather be totally blind, physical, and have my spiritual sight; than to be totally blind, spiritual, and have my physical sight. I want to have spiritual sight.

101 Notice, what would be wrong with that man? Those, his friends, would come and say, "Jim," John, or whatever his name might be, "you are wrong. Come out of that old dingy basement, musty."

102 And he would stand and say, "I'll tell you, I'm satisfied where I am!" He doesn't want the—the welcomed sunshine. He doesn't want its healing rays. He doesn't want its beauty, it—its warmth for his life. Something would be wrong with the man.

103 And so is the man or a woman who wants to stay in the dingy world, shut up in the musty sin of unbelief, and saying, "The days of miracles is past. There is no such a thing as Divine healing. There is no Holy Ghost." It's because you're refusing to come out of the must and dens of the devil, and of hell, and of sin, and of pride.

104 Walk in the Light of the Gospel, which will bring you warmth! Oh, how comfortable It is! To see the oncoming judgments, and feel that comfort feeling of the Holy Spirit! Hear them talk of atomic bombs? And just think what has happened, a peace that passes understanding!

Why, the bomb won't no more go out of the gun until we'll be in the Presence of Jesus, with Eternal Life; we old people, back young again; the babies, up to an age; with no more death or sorrow. Oh! What a wonderful thing! You mean a man would refuse to come out and walk in That? There is something wrong with him.

105 Finally, if he doesn't get the sunlight, he turns pale. He gets real pale, sick sets in on him.

106 That's what's the matter with the world today. That's what's the matter with the most of our churches today. We are becoming anemia. We need a blood transfusion. Pale, because we are failing, our spiritual health is failing us. We don't have the zeal no more, to hunt souls, to-to warn people, to get our neighbors, to get our friends, the milkman, the paper boy. Whatever it is, get someone to the Lord Jesus!

We're pale; failing to walk out in the Light, which is our privilege; failing to believe in the health of God, by Divine healing.

107 I'm told in the Bible that there would be a time come, for those who are not in this wonderful Son Light, that the fowls of the air will eat the flesh of them; that diseases is on its road, that the doctors will never be able to stop. It's the plagues of God. ~ 15~

108 The Egyptians' doctors, which was far smarter than ours today, could not stop the plagues of God, neither could their soothsayers or their impersonators. It took Goshen, and the Power of God, to hold His people; under the blood of a lamb!

109 The Holy Spirit is that Door today. The Holy Spirit is that safety today.

> 60-0229 - The Oncoming Storm Rev. William Marrion Branham

I was reading a newspaper here some time ago in Los Angeles. It's increased forty percent in the last year: Sodomite. Why? Women has exposed themself and such, till the natural source of man's been changed: Sodomite.



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

I haven't had... I just feel His presence. I know He's here. Listen. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man," See? What was it? A time like in Sodom, Look at perversion, like it was in Sodom, the sin of Sodom. Look at this nation. Look at other nations.

I was reading a newspaper here some time ago in Los Angeles. It's increased forty percent in the last year: Sodomite. Why? Women has exposed themself and such, till the natural source of man's been changed: Sodomite. "Was in the days of Sodom..." Look. When Lot, the righteous man, and his family was down there, He become mayor of the city, or set in the gate and was a judge, great intellectual. But the sins vexed his righteous soul each day.

104 One day, just before the end time, Abraham, the elected Church, was called out. It didn't go in Sodom; it was out of Sodom. Now, watch the three classes of people, always. There's always a believer, a makebeliever, and a unbeliever amongst the people. That's Abraham, Lot, and the Sodomites. Now, watch. Each had a message. There was three Angels came to Abraham, the church elected. Two of them went down in Sodom and brought out Lot and his wife and daughters.

She turned around. Sodomites burned.

Two of them—a modern Billy Graham and an Oral Roberts, his messages went down into Sodom, preaching the Word, blinding them with the Word. To disbelieve the Word, you are blind. The preaching of the Gospel blinds the unbeliever. And that's what Billy Graham and those great evangelists are doing. Blinding.

105 But there was One that stayed with Abraham, the elect. He gave him a sign. You remember, he had been Abram a day before that or two. And Sarah had been S-ar-r-a. But now it's A-b-r-a-h-am and S-a-r-a-h. See? So this One setting there, the Speaker, He said, "Abraham, where is your wife, Sarah: Princess?"

Said, "She's in the tent." And the tent was behind the Angel.

He said, "Abraham," now remember, Sarah was ninety and Abraham a hundred ninety-nine, He said, "I'm going to visit you." (I, personal pronoun there.) "I'm going to visit you according to the time of life, the promise that I told you." In other words, Sarah's going to bring this baby.

And she laughed in the tent. See, she was old. She said, "Me have pleasure with my lord?"—Abraham, her husband. And said, "He's old

too." Why, she... they was... As husband and wife maybe they hadn't been husband and wife for twenty years. See? They was that old, past. Said, "Me?" And she laughed.

And the Angel, with His back turned, said, "Why did Sarah laugh?" What about it? Is that telepathy? "Why did Sarah laugh?"

Sarah run out and said, "I didn't." 'Cause she was scared.

He said, "Yes, you did."

106 She'd have perished right there if it wouldn't have been for Abraham, her husband. She's a part of it. And the church would perish right now, if it wasn't a part of Christ: for its unbelief. Can't do it. He couldn't take Sarah on account of Abraham. He can't take the church on account of Christ. The Blood's still there (See? That's right.), part of it.

107 Now, notice. Jesus... And watch what he called this

Man. Lot—or lot... Them Angels led Lot out. Watch. Abraham went out to worship by this Angel, and he called Him Elohim. What was it? That Man eat veal chops, a lamb-or, a calf. And He drank milk and eat breadprobably corn meal, made hoecakes out on the hearth. But Sarah made them. And He eat bread, drink milk from the cow, and eat the cow's calf (That's right), and standing there. Abraham, and Abraham called Him Elohim.

He ought to know—he's the one talked to Him. See if that isn't right. Elohim, capital L-or-d, same as the beginning.

What was it? Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Lot, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." Elohim, the Word, in the beginning, will be manifested in human flesh like He was there. Hallelujah. Elohim, not I was; I AM. See?

62-0607 - Putting On The Whole Armor Of God

Rev. William Marrion Branham

Two of them went down into Sodom; a very beautiful picture of this day we're living at, and we find a modern Billy Graham and them in Sodom, bringing them out



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

59 Now in Hebrews 4, we find out, Hebrews 4:12. Jesus was perfectly identified by His works and what He did, because Hebrews 4:12 says, that, "The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword. It also is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

60 That's how Abraham, when this Man met him, with dust on His clothes, and we find out, when Abraham seen this Man, he called Him aside. 61 Two of them went down into Sodom; a very beautiful picture of this day we're living at, and we find a modern Billy Graham and them in Sodom, bringing them out.

62 Look at the church elected, though, the real seed of Abraham. Lot was a nephew, but Abraham...This Man never went down, the One that talked with Abraham. And as He spoke with Abraham, He said, "Abraham." Now remember, his name was *Abram*, a few days before that, and his wife was *Sarai,* not Sarah.

And He said, "Abraham, where is your wife, Sarah?"

Said, "She is in the tent, behind You."

63 He said, "I am going to visit you according to the time of life."

And Sarah, in her heart, she kind of laughed about it.

64 "And the Man, with His back turned to the tent," the

Bible said, "said, 'Why did Sarah laugh?' in the tent behind Him."

65 And Abraham called that Man "Elohim." *Elohim* is "the self-existing One."

66 Now the English word *god* means anything. Them English words, you have to watch them, 'cause they got all kinds of perverted ideas. A god, this desk could be god, a tree could be god, a man could be god, anything god, the English word god means.

67 But Elohim means "selfexisting." There can only...This desk is not selfexisting. The man is not selfexisting. The tree is not selfexisting. But Elohim is! Selfexisting One, manifested in flesh, standing there, eating, drinking milk from the cow, eating the flesh, the calf, eating bread, and talking with Abraham, And Abraham said it was "Elohim."

68 And Jesus, in Saint Luke 17, said, "As it was in the days of Sodom, so shall it be when at the returning, when the Son of man will be made manifest." Not Son of God, now; "Son of man be made manifest"! "When He is being revealed, made known to His Church, Son of man will be revealed just before the promised Son."

69 Abraham had seen God in many different forms, in a Light, and in visions; but here was God in a Man, just before the waited and promised son appeared.

70 Jesus said, "Before the promised Son returns again, Elohim would make Himself (His Word) manifested in flesh, God!"

"Sirs, we would see Jesus!"

71 God manifested the same in all ages, it's always been, He has hid Hisself in behind human flesh. It's God in you. "A little while and the world seeth Me no more, yet ye shall see Me. I'll be with you." He is even in us; He will be, to the consumation, until He is revealed in the form coming from Heaven.

64-0617 - The Identified Christ Of All Ages Rev. William Marrion Branham

Don't Even Stop To Look Back. We've Got No Time To Look Back



WILLIAM MARRION BRANHAM

63 Then I think of another memorial, one day, when a woman had made the wrong choice. She decided not to stay up in the well-watered plains of-of, or, stay in the well-watered plains of Sodom and Gomorrah, and be sociable and live like the rest of the women was in those days.

64 She didn't take the good choice, as Sarah who stayed up in the barren lands. Only, she kept God's Word in her heart. And she was obedient and lovely to her husband, insomuch that she called him her "lord." And there is where God came down with two Angels and visit them in the tent.

65 But, Mrs. Lot, she became very worldly and taken up with the things of the world. And what a lesson that is to us, today, that we can become too worldly-minded. And I'm quite sure, today, that the church, in whole, is becoming too worldly-minded. Now, maybe, Mrs. Lot didn't mean to do that, when she went down there. She thought, "I'll just be sociable." It's all right to be sociable, but don't take up the habits of the world.

66 When you go, go like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and Daniel. They purposed in their heart that they would not defile themselves, no matter what come or went. No matter whether the rest of the church backslid, what happened, they purposed in their heart. And they are a memorial today.

67 And Mrs. Lot stands for a memorial. And when God give her her last message of grace, when He sent those Angels down there and told them that within a few hours that Sodom and Gomorrah was going to be burned, yet, she could not stand the thought of giving up her social life, to come out into a desert,

and to live like Sarah had lived out there in the desert, and have to wear common, plain clothes of the woman of the plain. She wanted to be in luxury. Her husband had become a great man in the city. He sit in the gate, as a judge or as a mayor of the city. And she wanted these luxuries. And she couldn't stand the thought of having to give those things up. And as she went with her husband, out of the city, she kept back. weepi

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looking back, weeping and grieving because she had to give it up, to separate herself from that type of death.

68 Jesus said, "He that puts his hand to the plow, and even turns to look back, is not worthy of the plowing." What type of people should we be? He that puts his hand to the plow, and even don't-don't turn back, but just turn to look back, is not even worthy of the plowing. Oh, we should keep our eyes and hearts single.

No matter what the other people do, what the church does, what the neighbor does, what anyone else does, keep your heart centered on Calvary. Don't even stop to look back. We've got no time to look back.

69 And this woman, because she did, God gave a memorial to all the peoples who turn to look back, after they had once accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. She turned to a pillar of salt. And she stands there to this day, it can be seen in the fields, that the woman standing there with her head turned, looking back. And she's looking back over her left shoulder, to look back into the fields. Her heart was back there. Yet, she was forced, as it was, to do this.

70 And many people take Christ that way, today, because they come out from the world, feel like they're forced to do it. And they keep longing and lusting, and it isn't long till they're back. And they're—they're a horrible memorials of God's grace, of God's love as showed to them. Now, memorials!

57-0818 - Time-Tested Memorials Of <mark>God</mark> Rev. William Marrion Branh<mark>a</mark>m



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