

William Branham – Student Handout

Who Was William Branham?

William Branham (1909–1965) became famous as a healing evangelist from 1946 onward. His early life was shaped by poverty and hardship. He often claimed to hear supernatural voices as a child, which he later used to support his prophetic identity. In 1946 he said an angel commissioned him to bring healing to the world. He held large meetings, and his popularity spread worldwide. Over time, Branham shifted from healing to teaching unusual doctrines. These teachings became “The Message,” forming a movement that still exists today.

Key Teachings of Branhamism

1. Serpent Seed

Branham taught Eve had sexual relations with the Serpent, producing Cain. The Bible says clearly in Genesis 4:1 that Adam fathered Cain.

2. Anti-Trinity Teaching

Branham denied the Trinity and taught that God only appears in different roles or “modes.” The Bible shows the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit present together (Mark 1:10–11; Matthew 28:19).

3. Denominations Are the “Mark of the Beast”

Branham taught that all Christian denominations were false, and only his followers were the true Bride of Christ. The Bible teaches that all believers (across time and culture) form the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25–32; Revelation 21:2–9).

4. Branham as Elijah

He claimed to be the final Elijah of Malachi 4:5 and the “seventh angel” of Revelation.

5. Strict Rules and Outward Controls

Dress codes (especially for women), behaviour rules, and loyalty to Branham became tests of salvation.

6. Hidden Knowledge and Fear

Branham taught that questioning him showed spiritual blindness. This creates fear and pressure.

Failed Prophecies and Contradictions

1. The 1977 Prediction

Branham predicted world systems would end by 1977. This failed. Deuteronomy 18:22 says failed prophecy proves a prophet is false.

2. The Seven Visions

Several predicted events did not happen.

3. The Arizona Cloud (1963)

Branham claimed a supernatural event, but scientific reports show the cloud came from a missile explosion. Records contradict Branham’s location that day.

4. Contradictory Stories

Branham regularly changed details in his sermons.

False Healings and Investigations

- Prayer card information gave his team personal details that looked supernatural.
- Donny Morton was declared healed but died afterward.
- William Upshaw’s “healing” does not match his historical medical record.
- Alfred Pohl, a former insider, reported many healings failed after follow-up.
- The “halo photo” was normal camera flare, not authenticated by the FBI.

Control Patterns in The Message

- Fear of asking questions.
- Isolation from other Christians.
- Emphasis on dress and behaviour as proof of salvation.
- Dependence on Branham’s sermons as the only correct interpretation.
- Fear of judgement outside the group.
- “Us vs Them” mindset.

What the Bible Teaches Instead

- Scripture is complete (Hebrews 1:1–2; Jude 1:3).
- The Trinity is clear (Matthew 28:19; John 17).
- False prophets must be rejected (Deuteronomy 18:20–22).
- Salvation is by grace, not rules (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Helping Someone in The Message

- Show kindness.

- Avoid mocking Branham.
- Use gentle questions.
- Read Scripture together.
- Reassure them that questions honour God.
- Focus on Jesus, not Branham.

Summary

Branham's teachings and prophecies do not match Scripture. The gospel is centred on Jesus, not fear, hidden revelation, or human prophets.