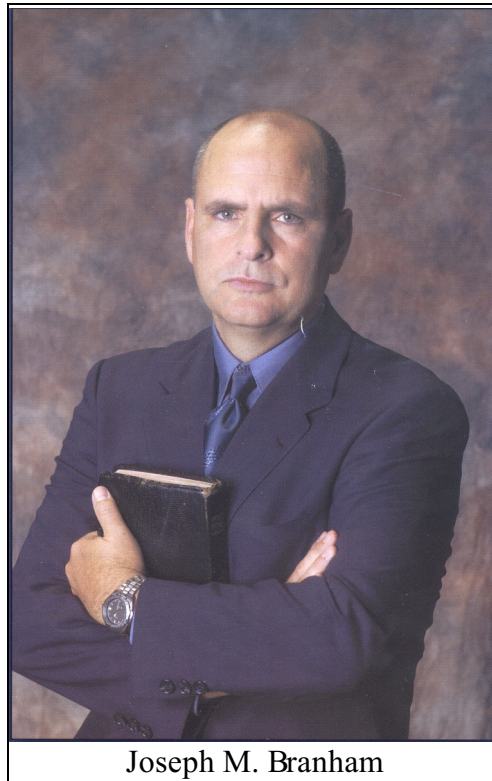


WHAT KIND OF A TREE IS THIS?



Joseph M. Branham

The Lord Jesus, Brother Branham, and all the prophets, have repeatedly told us that “a tree is known by the FRUITS it bears”. *By their fruits you shall know them.* Now, all that a man can say is that that is a tree, but to know WHAT KIND of a tree it is, YOU HAVE TO WAIT to see the fruits it bears. When you see the fruits, then you can surely say what kind of a tree it is.

Now, Brother Branham told us that his son Joseph was to be a prophet. *When I picked him up, the Spirit caught me and said, “Joseph, my son, you are a prophet.” God, let my spirit come in a double portion on my son.* - HAVING CONFERENCES. 60-0608.

Well, that is what he “saw” about his son. That is what the Spirit let him say about his son, that he was a prophet. He told us that God promised him a son. He told us that he desired to see his son Joseph get behind the pulpit and preach the Word. Listen what he says:

*But my first purpose is live for Christ, for my ministry. The second, I'd like to live long enough that I could see my little Joseph setting there become a **minister**; take the spirit*

*that I shall leave him. May my spirit come upon him. When I dedicated him to God, standing there in his mother's arms... I don't know, there's ten or fifteen babies. When I picked him up, the Spirit caught me and said, "Joseph, my son, you are a prophet". God, let my spirit come in a double portion on my son. When I come to the end of the road, and I can't go no farther, I want to hand this Bible to Joseph, and say, "Honey, don't you... Don't you compromise on one word. Stay true to God; if it takes everything there is, you stay true to God". **When I can see you do that**, and see Joseph take my Bible and walk to the pulpit as a anointed servant of God, all done then; all I can do for God. - HAVING CONFERENCES - 60-0608.*

In another place he says:

God, when my days are done, I'd like to see little Joseph be a man that I could place this Bible in his hand. Because the day of his dedication, You spoke. Said, "Joseph, thou art a prophet". I pray, God, that You'll let a double portion of the Spirit on my boy. If You'll just let me live to win souls to You till I get old, then place--place this Bible over into the hands of my son, Joseph, and tell him to continue with the same Gospel. It would be a full life, Father. - FROM THAT TIME - 60-0716.

Now, this passing of the Bible from Brother Branham hands to Joseph DID NOT HAPPENED, because, in some way that only God knows, the prophet left before the time and in a unexpected way, in such a way that he was not able to pass his Bible to Joseph. Now, this fact is very important! Consider this carefully.

In another place he asks the blessings of the Lord to be upon his child:

In a little closet, way yonder in the north lands You promised this child to me. Father, may Your blessings rest upon Him. Joseph, my boy, I give you to God, and may your life be a blessing. May you be a prophet, Joseph; may God's grace rest on you. May the God of your father, the Lord Jesus Christ ever bless you and make your life a blessing to others. In Jesus Christ's Name I bless this child. Amen. - ENTICING SPIRITS - 55-0724.

But Brother Branham DID NOT ask God's blessings ONLY for his child; he did that for MANY other children. As he expressed the desire to see his son behind the pulpit, preaching the Word, so he DID THE SAME FOR MANY OTHERS. That is anyhow the desire of every servant of God.

In another place he says this:

When I picked up Joseph in my arms, not thinking of what I was saying, I said, "Joseph, my son, thou art a prophet". That's my prayer anyhow, and I believe it'll be someday; God will take everything that He ever give me, and double it times double, and put on that boy, then when I leave that he'll take my place. - LET US SEE GOD - 59-1129.

But until now Joseph is NOT doing what Brother Branham did! He is NOT that kind of a preacher. He is just a "president of an editing company". Till now he HAS NOT a Body-Church like Brother Branham had. On the contrary, he has a "paid body-employees", with a salary like any worldly company. That is not a church that a Word-prophet would have. No, not at all.

In another place look how the prophet expressed his desire about his son Joseph:

*I want to raise my little boy back there, Joseph. **I want to see him in the pulpit**, when I can take this Bible... When I get to a place I see Joseph in the pulpit preaching as a--as a young man filled with the Holy Ghost, anointed with the Spirit of God upon him... And I believe he'll be a prophet. The day when I--when I--when I saw him six years before he was born, you remember me telling you he was coming. Remember when I caught him right there at the side of the altar, not knowing what I was saying, dedicating babies, I said, "Joseph, thou art a prophet".*

*When I can see that happen, then me and mama can stagger in, me on my old cane, some night, come down along the road, and I can look in there and see my boy standing there anointed with the Holy Ghost, preaching this same Gospel. I want to take this old Book and say, "Son, here It is; It's yours. You stand with It. Don't you compromise on one Word. You stay right with It, honey. Don't you, don't care... I don't care who's against you, who's against; God will be for you. **You preach every Word just the way It's wrote in There**; daddy will see you across the river". - ADOPTION - 60-0522E.*

If we look careful to all quotes where Brother Branham speaks about the future ministry of his son Joseph, and look to the "context", any one can see very clear these points:

- 1) It was his DESIRE to see Joseph in the ministry. In the MINISTRY, not in the BUSINESS. Behind a PULPIT, not behind a boss desk. Bu until now this is not yet fulfilled.
- 2) He acknowledged in Joseph the "gift" of a prophet.
- 3) He NEVER states that he will have a SPECIAL ministry as a prophet. So he was to be a "preacher", like one of the New Testament. One of the Fivefold ministry of Ef. 4:11.
- 4) He NEVER states that Joseph will be 100% in the Word. NEVER. He "wishes", "desire" that he might stay with the Word.

See, if we take out of context what the prophet says, then we can let him say what he has NEVER said. WE MUST STAY IN THE CONTEXT.

Now, in all the prophet said about his son Joseph, he NEVER SAW THE "FRUITS" he brought forth. Never, because when the prophet left, the "tree Joseph" was still a small tree, not yet able to bear fruits. So the prophet COULD NOT judge that tree. He saw it was a tree, a prophet tree; he asked God's blessing upon that tree; he blessed it; he expressed the desire to see this tree behind the pulpit preaching the Word. But he never lived long enough to see the "fruits" of that tree. I want to repeat this again. HE NEVER LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THE "FRUITS" OF THAT TREE.

Now, let me give you an example. Please, this is just an "example", so do not take it as "it is so".

What if Brother Branham would have been the father of Balaam? Think about this, and ponder what I am trying to say.

Now, all we know what the prophet says about the prophet Balaam. If you don't know, just search in your computer and find out. Brother Branham says that Balaam was a PROPHET of God.

*And Balaam wasn't a infidel. Balaam, the prophet, he was a believer. - EARNESTLY
CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - 53-0614A*

*And now, many people has tried to make Balaam just a, oh, a soothsayer or something. But
Balaam was not a soothsayer; he was a prophet of the Lord. - DOES GOD CHANGE HIS
MIND - 65-0418E*

Now, suppose Brother Branham was the father of Balaam. Surely he would have seen the TRUE Gift of God that was on the child. Surely he would have said that his child was a “prophet of the Lord”. Surely he would have asked God’s blessing upon the child. AND ALL THAT WAS RIGHT! ALL WAS TRUE! Yet, when the time for the “fruit” came, we saw Balaam was a “false” prophet.

Now, what if that could be the same with Joseph? I do not know, I am just presenting you a possibility. But if we judge by the “fruit” and not by what the prophet have said, then we can come to the conclusion that Joseph is a false prophet.

Now, look what made the difference between Moses and Balaam. Brother Branham says that the difference was not in the “gifts”, because BOTH had the gift, and their gifts were FROM GOD. Also the difference was not in the “anointing”, because BOTH was anointed by the same Spirit of God. The difference was in the TEACHING.

*Balaam, anointed with the same Spirit that was upon Moses... What was the difference?
The teaching of Moses was perfect. - ANOINTED ONES AT END TIME - 65-0725M*

*God told Balaam, that prophet... He was a prophet, the prophet Balaam. He was a prophet,
and the Word come to him exactly.*

*Now, the teaching of Balaam... Not the prophecy of Balaam, that was all right; that was
God. How many believes that? The prophecy of Balaam was exactly right, 'cause He
couldn't speak nothing else. The anointing of God wouldn't speak nothing else. And God
vindicated it by proving it was the truth. **But it was the teaching of Balaam.** - ANOINTED
ONES AT END TIME. 65-0725M.*

Do you see it? The TEACHING made the difference between the two gifted prophets of God.

Now, every one of us have seen very clear the TEACHING of Joseph Branham in his magazine “Here I Stand”. In that magazine there is his teaching. Also in the magazine “Catch the Vision” there is his teaching. Now, in his teaching there is a “world wide controlling spirit on the work of God”. In his teaching there is a “spirit of money”. In his teaching there is a “perverting of the franchise principles that the prophet of God William Branham spoke of”. In his teaching there is a “threatening spirit toward God’s servants”. In his teaching there is a “presenting himself as the ONLY ONE HOLY MAN to protect the Word of God”. In his teaching there is a “despising of the faithful work that the servants of the Lord has done, calling it: SATAN SCHEME”. Oh, my, there are so many things unscriptural in his teaching!

Now, we are not denying his prophetic gift. We are not denying his anointing. But we are called to check his “fruits”, his “teaching”. AND WE HAVE FOUND OUT THAT HIS TEACHING DOES NOT GO IN LINE WITH THE TEACHING OF THE PROPHET! IT DOES NOT GO IN LINE WITH THE

TEACHING OF THE BIBLE! IT DOES NOT GO IN LINE WITH THE TEACHING OF THE ENTIRE MESSAGE! No, not at all! That is what makes him the kind of tree he is.

Now, look: Joseph have a church of his own. The church is “the people that work at VGR Inc.”. Surely, they are his church! And he is their “pastor”, or their “prophet”. Sure!

He is their “boss”, their “president”, the one that “leads them”. He preaches to them what they have to do, and how they have to do it. He calls them to prayer. He gives them a job, a salary, a position. They obey him as their boss. They depend from him for their daily living. In other words: that church is based on “financial economy”. Strange kind of a church! It looks more like the big church that sits in Roma than the Body-Church of the living God. Yes.

What keeps that church of VGR Inc. together is the “wordily economy”, not the “bound of love by the Word of God”, like it is for every member of the Body of Christ. No, they stay united together by the strength of “financial principles”.

Now, look here. God created man for a purpose, but he failed His purpose, and when God saw the wickedness of man He repented to have created him. (Genesis 6:5-6)

God planted a vineyard, did all He could do for it. It should have brought Him good fruits. But when time came for the fruits, it brought Him only wild grapes. (Isaiah 5:1-7)

The same was for Balaam. God gave him the gift of a prophet to bring honor to God. But he used it wrong. Could it be that that is now the same thing with Joseph?

Now, look, also Brother Branham says that one time he too was in Balaam shoes:

And I come to the pulpit and I seen then that I was preaching and telling how bad Balaam was and I was setting in Balaam's shoes. I was doing the things that the Angel of Lord met me up there and said don't do it. - EXPERIENCES - 47-1207.

Then he tells us what is the difference between his error and the error of Balaam:

I believe for Balaam, it was the love of money is the reason that he wanted to go. I'm not sure; I've never knowed till I come in. I don't think... It was the love of money. But in my case it wasn't the love of money, it was a sympathy for human beings. And no matter little or how big, it's all wrong to disobey God (That's right.), regardless of what it is.

You can read the full story in the Message **EXPERIENCES.1**- Phoenix AZ. 47-1207.

See, Balaam was a true prophet, but when he went after the “money”, that made him false. But the “gift” REMAINED in him. Could it be the same for Joseph?

Now, Brother Branham tells us that a “true” prophet does not “commercialize his gift”:

And no true prophet of God, as Balaam said of old, when he stood down there and he sold and commercialized his gift, that's right, but he was prophet. - JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY 52-0810E.

See, a true prophet should be busy on “preaching the Word”, not on “Financial business” of any kind.

Joseph is not busy on preaching the Word, but on “commercializing” the Word. So, what kind of a prophet is he? According to the “fruits” we see, he has to be a false prophet. Unless he repents and turns back to the Truth.

Balaam was a prophet of God, but because of his love for personal gain, he lost his birthrights:

Balaam had a gift of faith and could've used it to the perfect original Word of God. Many men on the field today with gifts of healing could do the same thing. Many men out here, people speaking in tongues, people prophesying, a gift--could use it for the Kingdom of God, but they don't do it; they take... And God blesses them anyhow, gets the permissive will. But for popularity, and pleasures, personal gain, sold their birthrights as Esau did (See?), sold out to a organization, sold out like Balaam did. See? And so many are doing today the same thing. We know that's right. They sell out their birthright. - DOES GOD CHANGE HIS MIND - 65-0418E.

See, Joseph had a birthright, he has a gift, he has the prophetic blessing of Brother Branham, BUT, because of his stand that has taken AGAINST those that FAITHFUL are working for the Kingdom of God, and because of his “controlling spirit” on the Message, for the sake of money, he has sold his rights that would have enabled him to do the proper work for God.

Now, why all this happened to Joseph? In the case of Balaam it was the “company” that pushed him in the wrong way, so says the prophet:

*Now, Balaam should've knowed better. **He should've dismissed himself from such company,** but all them nice gifts and a--a--the promise that this king said,... - DOES GOD CHANGE HIS MIND - 65-0418E.*

*And God told Balaam--that he was the prophet first--He told him, “Don't go down”. But **the influence of these other men caused him to do it contrary to what God said do it, and it become a curse instead of revival.** - TRYING TO DO GOD A SERVICE - 65-0718M.*

Could it be that the “company” of Joseph has brought him in such a position? Could it be that some of those people that was making Brother Branham “Jesus Christ”, but did not prevail, have now prevailed on Joseph? Could it be that some “man worshipers” have gathered around Joseph and have made him their “idol”, their “god”, their “man”, lifting him up, giving him too much honor, praise, attention, money, gifts, rewards, popularity, etc. etc., and have made him fall into that same trap in which fell Balaam?

Now, look to this parallel. The prophet Balaam, a prophet of God, went down TO STOP, to curse, to despise the children of Israel. Brother Branham says that Balaam was looking to the “mistakes” that the children of Israel did during their journey in the wilderness. Now, look, in his magazine, Joseph is quoting “mistakes” that the brothers have done with the translations. Why does he not look to the “good part” that they have done in translating and spreading the Message, instead of looking to the “bad” part, if there is a bad part?

In his magazine Joseph has threatened us and have said: “STOP NOW,...”. Hey, brethren, can't you see that these are the same words that Balaam was going to speak when he was going down to curse and stop the children of Israel from going into the promised land? Can't you see it, my brethren? Oh, if you

are spiritual, then you surely see it.

Look even to the picture that he put of himself in front of his magazine “Here I stand”; is not he with that same arrogant attitude that had the prophet Balaam when he was going down to stop the children of Israel and on the way was hardly beating his poor ass? Sure it is!

And look: as Balaam tried to stop them to go into the promised land, so is doing Joseph now, trying to stop us that are doing the best to bring the people of God into the Promised Land, the Message of the Hour. Just exactly the same actions that Balaam did. Can’t you see it?

Like Balaam was threatening Israel, so is now Joseph threatening us. And as then it had to do with the “going into the promised land”, so it is NOW, his action has again to do with the Promised Land (the Message). Oh, can’t you see it?

If Joseph is a true prophet of God, then why does he not come into the ministry? Why does he not be a “minister among the ministers”, like his father spoke of himself?

Let me be a brother. Let me live the example, what Christ said a man should be. Let me be a brother to a brother, a brother to a sister. Let me be a--a minister to the ministers. Let me be an example of examples. Let me show to the world that this Word is Christ. The only way I can do it, is come into Him, 'cause I can't do it myself; you can't do it; but let the Word and you become one; then It lives itself out. - THE TOKEN - 63-0901M.

If he has a “gift”, then why does he have not “his own Scriptural church, his own pulpit”, instead of having a “business company”, and “employees” for members?

If he has a call into the ministry, then why does not he start preaching like his father did? But till now he is not doing the office of a preacher, like his father spoke of him; then, where is that gift operating as one of the New Testament prophets?

If he is a true prophet, then how can it be that most of them that follow him believe in strange doctrines? Yes, his followers believe in: “Since 1963 Grace is over”; they believe that there are no more pastors; they believe that the time to go to church is over, now you have to stay at home and listen only the tapes; they believe that the time to have the Lord’s Supper is over, because now we are already resurrected; they believe that the perfect will of the Lord for the Bride comes only from VGR Inc.; they believe that Joseph is the “eight messenger”; they believe that Joseph is like the Joseph in Egypt, the one that has to distribute the Food in due season. My, if this Joseph has to do the same job that the other Joseph did in Egypt, then it means that the Bride has still to go down in Egypt? Then it means that the Bride has to wait in Egypt 400 years, in bondage? Then it means that we have to wait for a Vindicated prophet with the Pillar of Fire? It means that we have still to cross the Red Sea? It means that we have yet the wilderness before us? It means that the Promised Land is still far away from us? If this is so, then what kind of deliverance brought to us the Message of Brother Branham? My, oh, my!

Oh, what a nonsense these people believe! And, amazing, strange: THESE ARE THE FOLKS THAT GATHER AROUND JOSEPH, the prophet. What a company! Sure, false people need to have a “false leader”. In other words, he has become the prophet of the Moabites, not of the Bride. He is the prophet of the “goats”, not of the Sheep. Birds of the same kind fly together!

Brother Branham NEVER said, NO WHERE, that the Bride should look after his son Joseph, neither that She has to listen to his son. He always tells us to look to the MESSAGE, to CHRIST, to JESUS, to the WORD.

Could it be that a false spirit has taken a hold of Joseph like it was with the prophets of king Ahab? (I King 22:22)

If Joseph has a call as a prophet (a preacher), then why does he not go around to the other ministers that God has in the Message, and prove his ministry as the Apostle Paul did? (Gal.1:2)

But the position he has taken is that of one “superior to the local ministers”; he has taken the position of a bishop, or that of someone “above the parts”. He has stepped over the respect of the local ministry, to speak directly to the sheep as a “superior” does. Huh, this is a very bad sign! This “fruit” is very evil!

I have spoken with many believers and ministers in the Message from all over around the world, and EVERY ONE OF THEM is SHOCKED for what they have read in the magazine “Here I Stand”. Every one agrees that the spirit that inspired Joseph to write that magazine is not the Holy Spirit.

If the contents of that magazine is the First Sermon of Joseph to the public, then he started threatening the brethren and trying to stop the servants of God from doing the job that God have called them to do. My, if this is the “first fruit” of his ministry, then we are really in the time when, if it was possible, even the Elected could be deceived!

We was expecting that the devil would come from the denominations, from the Catholic Church. But the devil has got a hold of someone that no one could have expected: The son of the prophet! And by this MANY make-believers will fall. Many do not see the “trap of the enemy”. And BY THESE FALLEN BELIEVERS pressure is coming on the real Bride-members, on the real and true ministers. Yes, the pressure, the “squeeze”, the persecution, is not coming from the “outsiders”, but from the ones that are very close to the Truth. Even from the son of the prophet, the one of whom has been spoken of to be a prophet of God. Once again we can very clearly see the “two spirits” working very close. Just like it was with the Lord Jesus, that His traitor came from His disciples, so it is now. Oh, God help us!

All this shows, brethren, that the time for us to go Up is very near! Yes, we are in a “changing time”. Even he, Joseph, says this in his magazine-sermon: “**Now, it is a deciding time for everyone**”.

To decide “what”? I have already made my decision many years ago, that is to **stay on the side of the Word till the end**. Every member of the Bride has already taken his decision. But he, being a prophet, told the truth! In other words, he has told: “Now is the time to decide in which side you want to stay: with me, as the prophet’s son, or with the Word”. Too late! The Message has already done the job! The Message has already sealed the Elect!

No, the Bride HAS ALREADY taken Her stand for the Word! And She WILL NOT be fooled by no prophet. She has already a VINDICATED prophet: William Marrion Branham. She will listen only to him, and not what his son has to say about the franchise and copyrights on the Message. She knows that “She” has the franchise on the Message, and SHE ALONE, because It belongs to HER. It is the “love letter” that Her Bridegroom has send to Her, not to Joseph Branham. Yes, She has the Copyright. And there is NO MAN, no son of the prophet, between Her and Her Word-Bridegroom. Alleluia! Oh, glory

to God! My heart jumps of joy just at the thought of this. Glory to God!

Yes, we never thought that such a thing would come from INSIDE OF US; from a son of the prophet; from the one that Brother Branham believed to be a prophet. And yet, in spite of this all, here we find ourselves with such an evil attack, coming from the INSIDE, from our own camp!

Oh, where are we? O God, help us! God, help us to measure everything with the Word! And everything that does not line up with the Word, NO MATTER WHERE IT COMES FROM, help us to stand against it and reject it as coming from the DEVIL. Amen.

And for Joseph; I believe every one of us desire to see him walking straight with the Word, as his father walked. But he has his freewill! And he has made his choice.

I do respect his choice - but I cannot approve it.

I could not approve it simply because it is contrary to what the prophet spoke about it.



Bro. Mariano

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