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Present Truth Ministries  
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## Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Several years ago, on a quarterly basis, I had written a teaching letter that was translated into Farsi and Urdu. We received many testimonies regarding these articles that were written. Since there are questions to so many subjects and topics as well as a great desire to learn and grow, I have felt the burden and the inspiration to start it up again. Our purpose and desire is to stay with the teachings of brother Branham and show them forth clearly from the Bible. This is my burden and my calling.

The March issue will cover three important subjects:

1. The Woman of Revelation 12
2. Confession of Faith
3. Church History: The Development of the Trinity

### ***The Woman of Revelation 12***

*"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:" Revelation 12:1*

There is much debate about the identity of this woman. Many believe that it is the true church, but is it really? Let's look more closely at these verses.

Brother Branham tells us that the sun is Christ-the Gospel Message, and the moon is the the Law. This represents that the Woman has moved past the Law and is clothed

with the glory of Christ, the Message of the Gospel. The twelve stars are the twelve apostles which are to rule over the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>1</sup> In his messages, brother Branham speaks about the identity of the Woman in several different ways. At times he refers to her as the church, and at other times he refers to her as Israel. As we examine these Scriptures and quotes we will find the truth of the matter.

First, let's examine some of the quotes.

*"And now, he sees the woman standing here. Look at her, she's the woman, you'll see in a few moments, she's the Jewish Orthodox church, the wife of God, the begotten. And notice, then, or, not the begotten (she's begotten of God, sure), but she's the wife. And God had to put her away some time, back there, on account of spiritual fornications. Is that right? And then He returned again, and received her again, and married her; and said He was married to a backslider (Is that right?), the wife that had gone away from Him. Now, what a beautiful picture this is, to see the woman standing there, and the moon under her feet, and the sun shining at her head. Let's look at her just a moment, now, and see what she looks like."*<sup>2</sup>

*"And then here come the dragon, the Roman hierarchy. (Which, the Church Itself had been raptured, was in Glory at the Wedding Supper for three and a half years.) Then the dragon, see, the dragon is always "Rome," the red dragon. Now to make that sure to you, in—in Revelation 12, the dragon was wroth with the woman that was to bring forth the man Child that's to rule all nations with a rod of iron, and he spurted water out of his mouth and... or—or to make war with the remnant of the seed. But the red dragon, first, he stood before this woman. As soon as the woman was to deliver this Child, he was to devour that Child as soon as He brought It forth. Now, who stood before the Israelite church (the woman Israel), to devour her Child (Jesus) as soon as It was born? Rome!"*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." [Matthew 19:28](#)

<sup>2</sup> 54-0516 - Questions And Answers (Law Having A Shadow), Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>3</sup> 60-1211M - The Ten Virgins, And The Hundred And Forty-Four Thousand Jews, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

*"For we find that in Revelation, the 12th chapter, the woman which was the "church," she was found with the moon under her feet and the sun at her head, twelve stars in her crown. Which, the—the old Orthodox Jewish law was under her feet, she had crossed over that into the light of the sun. Twelve stars are the "twelve apostles" that brought the messages to us, now, under the Holy Spirit."<sup>4</sup>*

We have three quotes which represent the various ways he speaks about the Woman of Revelation 12. We can see that twice he refers to her as the church, but in one of the quotes, when explaining what he means by "church," he expounds on it more deeply and states, "the Jewish Orthodox church, which God put away, but is now taking her back again". So, the Woman is actually Israel. Let's read further in chapter 12 and examine this more deeply.

*"And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." Revelation 12:2-5*

This prophecy is actually, like many, looking back to the past and speaking of the future in the same tense. The woman, Israel, was in travail to give birth to Christ, the man child which is to rule all nations<sup>5</sup>, and the dragon, which is Satan, stood there to devour him, to prevent him from ruling all nations. This was done through Herod, when he caused all male children in Bethlehem under two years of age to be killed because Messiah was born there. But Messiah was caught up to God and is not yet ruling the nations.

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<sup>4</sup> 64-0112 - Shalom, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>5</sup>We know who the—the image, the dragon that stood before the woman was to devour the Child, the Man Child Who was to rule the world with a rod of iron, Christ.

62-0407 - The Signs Of His Coming, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

*"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." Revelation 12:6*

So, the man child is caught up to God and the woman flees into the wilderness for protection for 3 1/2 years. The man child is Christ, and he was caught up to God at his ascension over 1900 years ago. But the woman has not yet fled into the wilderness. That is yet in the future.

*"And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:13-17*

The great time of persecution that will come upon Israel is during the tribulation period when the Beast is doing everything in his power to destroy spiritual Israel. Then we see the woman is given two wings of a great eagle. God represents himself as an eagle, and He represents his prophets as eagles also.

*"Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself." Exodus 19:4*

God took them out of Egypt through the work of his prophet, Moses. In Revelation 12, God will provide the two witnesses which will show to the woman a place of safety and protection from the persecution of the great red dragon. This falls in line with the 144,000 which are the remnant that are carried over to the millennium.

*"Now, you noticed, Noah was a type of the Jews that'll be carried over through the Tribulation. Enoch was a type of the—of the real Message, of translation of the Church, for Enoch was taken up and then the flood came. And both of them... The first prophet, Enoch, was taken out of the way so Noah could go on with his—with his... God could*

*go on with Noah. And now the Church will be taken away so that God can deal again with the Jews, the remnant of the Jews, the hundred and forty-four thousand, as we've been through it in the Scriptures here.”<sup>6</sup>*

The woman, Israel, will be protected from the persecution, just as Noah was protected from the flood and walked out on the earth after the judgement took place.

### **Confession of Faith**

*“Your right mental attitude towards God's Divine promise will bring any promise to pass. Now, maybe you don't believe that. You say, ‘Well, my faith is weak.’ I wouldn't confess it. See? Don't let the devil know that. Always say, ‘I've got good faith. I believe God with all my heart.’ See? Don't testify nothing of the devil. And when you accept Him as your Healer, don't never act like you're sick or crippled any more. Believe that you're healed. Take Him at His Word. Then it's all over on God then and not on you. See? You... As long as you take God at His Word, then the Word will produce what It promised to do. Is that right? Now, have faith, believe Him with all your heart.”<sup>7</sup>*

It is believing that we are saved and then living as though we are saved that produces salvation. Now, it is not actually the living that saves us, but rather the faith. However, true faith produces an attitude and a lifestyle that is in line with that faith. The same applies to any promise of God. The right mental attitude towards it, FAITH, and then confessing and living as though you already are healed produces healing. FAITH in the Word of God holds to the promise above all circumstances and experiences. Let's read what the Bible says about this.

*"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." Proverbs 23:7*

These are very powerful words, ‘as you think in your heart, so are you’. Whatever you think and meditate upon is what you become. So if you think and meditate upon the Word of God, you become the Word of God made manifest. The things we occupy our mind with actually create the atmosphere around ourselves and in our lives. If we think

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<sup>6</sup> 64-0816 - Proving His Word, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

<sup>7</sup> 51-0415E - The Hour Is Come, Rev. William Marrion Branham, <http://table.branham.org>

negative thoughts all the time then this is the atmosphere we create around us, and we bring negative things into our lives. The converse is true as well, if we have the mind of Christ, through the Word of God, then we will bring the promises of God into our life.

*"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." Luke 6:45*

What we think on and spend our time putting into our heart comes out of our mouth. Out of the surplus of the heart the mouth speaks, so what you fill your heart with is what comes out of your mouth. Fill your heart with the Word, and the Word will come out.

*"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:37*

The Bible teaches that it is our faith that brings salvation apart from works. However, the confession of our mouths will be held as evidence for or against us as to whether we are in a state of grace. Our words reveal our heart and reveal whether we have faith or are filled with doubt.

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9*

Our confession is connected to our faith. Actually, we can say an unconfessed faith is not faith at all. The same applies to any promise in the Bible. Take the Word into your heart, believe it, confess that it is true, sing that it is true, and meditate upon it again and again.

*"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;" Hebrews 3:1*

*"But now it won't do you any good until you accept it, you believe it; you say, 'Yes, Lord, I accept what You did for me.' Then you're saved. And then you say, 'I want You to heal me, Lord.' He's already done it. Then you just have to accept what He's done. Now, He's the High Priest, setting at the right-hand of Almighty God, making intercessions upon our confession, or profession; it's the same word. So, whatever... Now, He can't do nothing for us till we already say that He's done it. We have to confess it or profess it,*

*that He's done it, then He can go to work on it and make the intercessions. Is that right, brother? Is that the Scripture? Making intercessions on our profession..."<sup>8</sup>*

### ***Church History: Development of the Trinity***

The Bible never uses the terms "Trinity", "one God in three persons", "three persons in one substance", etc. It is curious why later church council's utilized these terms as necessary for salvation. The Athanasian Creed states, "And the Catholic faith is this: That we worship One God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance."

After the death of the apostles, church history is clear. There was a gradual shift away from Hebrew, Biblical thought to Greek, Philosophical thought. As a result, instead of viewing God in manifestation to his people in the Hebrew mode, theologians began to speculate about God's relation within himself, in the Greek mode. Notice the timeline below:

- 147 to 161 AD - Justin Martyr confesses that he believes the Word of John 1:1 is a "Second God."
- Circa 200 - Tertullian was the first to use the word trinity (Latin-trinitas). He borrowed the term from heathen teaching that spoke of a Father-Son-Mother trinity.
- At this time no doctrine of three co-equal, co-eternal persons was in existence.
- Circa 230 - Origen began teaching that the Son was eternal. Before this all teachers confessed that the Logos came forth from God just prior to creation.
- 325 - The Nicene Council recognizes that the Son was a second person; co-equal and co-eternal.
- 381 Constantinople Council - the church officially accepts that the Holy Spirit was the third person of the trinity (*the person presiding over council was an unbaptized city official*).

*Which Trinity doctrine is the right one?*

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<sup>8</sup> 60-0401E - The Queen Of Sheba, Rev. William Marrion Branham <http://table.branham.org>

The various orthodox churches bear record to this development as well. Each of them hold to a varying version of the Trinity. Each of them claims apostolic successions (the doctrine that they can trace the line of bishops of their church back to an apostle), and each of them has their arguments for why their Trinitarian creed is most authentic.

There are seven ecumenical councils<sup>9</sup> that the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox both agree upon. The Church of the East<sup>10</sup> recognizes only two of them. One of these councils took away a decision from a previous council, and the council after that restored the initial decision. *Is this how God communicates his truth with his people?* This is politics, not revelation. The first seven councils were all called by either the Western Roman Emperor or the Eastern Roman Emperor.

This will sound quite strange to most of us, but bear with me as I have a point. In their belief of the Trinity, the Roman Catholic Church confesses that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son, and the Eastern Orthodox Church confesses that the Holy Spirit proceeds only from the Father. The Church of the East rejects that the two natures of Jesus Christ are fused together into one, but that they remain separate.

Each of these councils, which were key in the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, ended up establishing other doctrines that most Christians consider false. The Nicene Council established that the bishops of Rome, Antioch, Constantinople and Alexandria were considered patriarchs and had authority over their civil provinces and all other bishops. The First Council of Ephesus declared that Mary was the mother of God. Other councils validated the worship (veneration) of icons (idols), that is, statues and other items of historical value connected to Christianity.

Without question, the doctrine of the Trinity was developed over time and is not a biblical revelation. The Jewish faith demanded belief in the absolute oneness of God

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<sup>9</sup> An ecumenical council (or oecumenical council; also general council) is a conference of ecclesiastical dignitaries and theological experts convened to discuss and settle matters of Church doctrine and practice in which those entitled to vote are convoked from the whole world (oikoumene)-source Wikipedia

<sup>10</sup> The Church of the East, also known as the Nestorian Church, is a Christian church within the Syriac tradition of Eastern Christianity. It was the Christian church of the Sasanian Empire, and quickly spread widely through Asia. Between the 9th and 14th centuries it was the world's largest Christian church in terms of geographical extent, with dioceses stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to China and India. Several modern churches claim continuity with the historical Church of the East.



while maintaining that God was unfolding himself in order to reveal himself to his creation. Church history proves that there is not an unbroken chain of belief in the Trinity from the apostles down to today. It is very, very clear that the apostolic fathers (the historical name for the leaders that followed the apostles) did not believe in a Trinity of persons, and the Apologists (the leaders that followed the apostolic fathers) did not believe in a Trinity of persons.

The simple truth that Father, Son and Spirit are three manifestations of One Person became a mess and a point of discord. In the end time God has restored this simple revelation to the Bride, and we are so grateful to him for it. The devil still seeks to bring confusion. But if we can go back to the simplicity and revelation of what brother Branham taught, keeping all the quotes in balance and believing that they are all right, then we will stay on the right path.

### **Conclusion**

This end time message is still going around the world and being preached in all nations. The Holy Spirit is moving, and testimonies of healing and transformation are coming in from all around the world. The greatest vindication of the message is your life, making the WORD live!

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