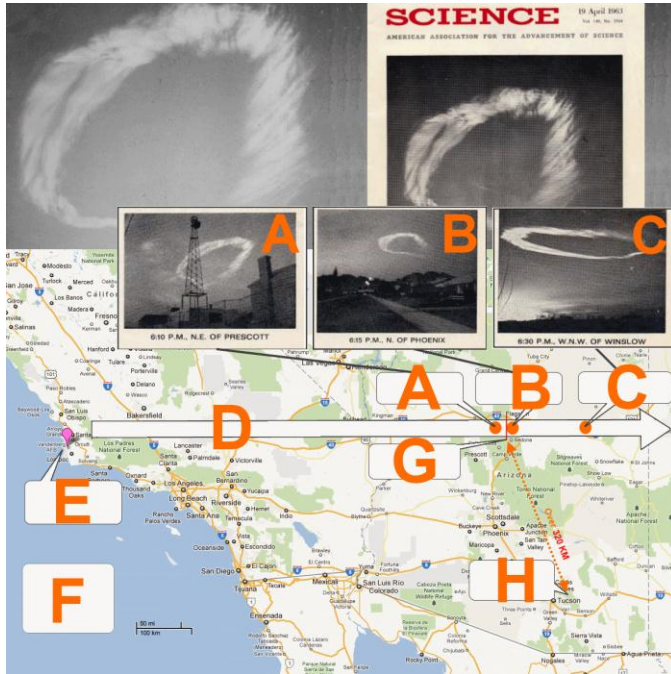




**Untangling  
The Truth  
THE CLOUD**

*by John Collins*



- A – Cloud sighting at 6:10PM N.E. of Prescott
- B – Cloud sighting at 6:15PM N of Phoenix
- C – Cloud sighting at 6:30PM W.N.W of Winslow
- D – Path of the cloud, east to west Feb 28, 1963
- E – Vandenberg AFB T.H.O.R. detonation
- F – NOTE: Javelina season March 1-10 1963
- G – Location of photograph taken for magazine
- H – Branham’s location between March 6-9 1963

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# Introduction

Most followers of William Branham are familiar with the “mysterious cloud” that was captured by science magazine in 1963. Many have pictures of it in their homes, and there are even some churches that hang this picture on their walls instead of pictures of Jesus Christ.

What they do not realize is that there is no connection between this cloud and William Marrion Branham. He was not in Arizona when the cloud was floating across Arizona. He was over 320 KM south of the cloud’s path. He preached several sermons talking about other descriptions of ‘God’s divine revelation’ until the article was published, and then the story changed to angels in the heavens. The spiritual aspects William Branham gave to this cloud do not coincide with actual facts.

As a timeline, you can easily watch the stories change from the original story into what “the cloud” event transitioned into.

*Nov 1962 – Vision of birds and angels*

*Early 1963 – Story about “King’s Sword”*

*Feb 28, 1963 – “Cloud Event”*

*Mar 4, 1963 – Houston TX Sermon*

*Mar 7, 1963 – “Blast Event”*

*Mar 17, 1963 – “Blast Story” (Turn back east)*

*May, 1963 – Magazine Article, change in story*

There have been several books and publications written to address “The Mysterious Cloud,” and the research and facts presented in those writings are enough to satisfy any person seeking to find the Truth.

This book will attempt to take the seeker on a journey from a different perspective, however. Rather than focus on the historical and scientific analysis data gathered in the previous studies, this book is intended to present the argument through the words of William Branham himself.

The words of man will fail, but God’s word will never fail.

## The Plan

As you will quickly find in your research of the extra-biblical teachings of William Branham, they all change over time. The cloud is no exception.

It is undeniable that the story about the vision given before his trip did not match the story given after the trip. Beforehand, it was a vision of birds, angels, and a pyramid constellation. It was not until he picked up a Life magazine that this story changed.

His vision was partially self-fulfilled prophecy and partially untraceable angelic visitation. The motivation behind this “vision” was to receive the special knowledge regarding the Seven Seals, which we’ve already learned in previous studies was copied from Clarence Larkin’s work.

*I went into a trance. I don't know the interpretation. I've never had anything like it in my life. But, before me, it seemingly that I realized that it was a vision, and I was in the vision. But I was talking to my son, Joseph. Which, he was not in the room at the time. But somehow, just as it struck me, I was talking to Joseph.*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the Word, Jeffersonville IN*



The fact that Joseph is mentioned in this vision raises a few questions. Joseph was not included in the retellings after the cloud, and it is difficult to determine whether Joseph was in the vision for the purpose of the pyramid of birds or as a powerful figure that would later become another self-fulfilled prophecy.

*And I--I looked up. And kind of in the shape of a pyramid, standing before me, was little, small birds, something like a half-inch long. They were, up at the top, on the limbs, there was now, you... say, three or four. Then, next, next limb had maybe eight or ten. And down at the bottom, had fifteen or twenty.*

*And they were little warriors, because their feathers was beaten, and looked like they were trying to talk to me, saying something. And I was in the West, seemingly around Tucson, Arizona. And the birds were looking East. And I was listening close. Was trying to say, looked like they were trying to tell me something. And they had little feathers, was all been beat up, and things. They were pretty well battle-scarred. Then, all of a sudden, one bird begin to take the other one's place, jumping like that. And the--the little birds swiftly left, flying eastward.*

*And when they did, from that came a larger bird, more like doves, with a pointed wings.*

*And--and--and they come in a swarm, and  
swiftly, more swift than what the little birds  
was, flew eastward.*

*And I still in my... the two consciences together,  
I knowed I was standing here, and I knowed I  
was somewhere else. See? And I thought, "Now,  
this is vision, and I must learn what this  
means."*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of  
the Word, Jeffersonville IN*

The first set of birds can be easily discounted as a signal to the great hunter, a spiritual being catching the attention of "the prophet." Either way, this was a symbolic event.

*There was a second set of birds doing the same:  
And no more than the second group of birds  
come by, I looked to the West.*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the  
Word, Jeffersonville IN*

After the birds got his attention, Branham noticed the angels. Fascinated by pyramids and the number five, we can already guess what we find him describing. Notice Joseph still included.

*And looked like in the form of a pyramid, like  
two on each side, with one in the top, came five  
of the mightiest Angels I ever seen in my life.  
Such a terrific speed, I never seen. Their heads*

*back, and Their pointed wings, just sailing quickly! And the power of Almighty God struck me, in such a way, till it lifted me plumb from the ground, all the way from the ground, up. I could hear Joseph still speaking.*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the Word, Jeffersonville IN*

William Branham taught that “five” was the number of grace. “J-E-S-U-S,” he would spell out, as though the ancient Greek and Aramaic text was written in English.

Here’s where the story starts going south:

*And sound like the sound barrier breaking, that--that a great roar went off, way in the **distance, to the South.** And when I was lifted up... And there was such a terrific speed of the Angels! And I--I can just see them right now, see, as--as They were coming, in that shape like that, just sweeping right into me.*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the Word, Jeffersonville IN*

He says that the event was in the South, and later says that the fulfillment of the prophecy was near the Mexican border.

“Shape like that” would have been presented by shaping his hands like a pyramid. The angels had to relate to the pyramid, since Branham

taught the strange doctrine that the Great Pyramid of Giza was an original Bible.

Again, he brings Joseph back into the story:

*I'm not dreaming, now. No. I was right there, wide awake as I am now. See? But here It come. And they were so terrifically fast, till I thought, when It lifted up... I heard that explosion, like, or like a blast that went out, like a sound barrier. And when it did, I thought, "Well, this must mean that I'm fixing to be killed, see, in a blast of some sort." And-- and I just... While I thought on those things, I thought, "No, it wouldn't be that. Because, if it was a blast, it would have got Joseph, too. Cause, there he is, still talking, thinking I'm there. I can hear him. It wasn't that."*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the Word, Jeffersonville IN*

*Now, this is all still in the vision. It wasn't... See? It was in the vision.*

Finally, he describes the angels. Five angels that matched the "number of grace."

*And then, all at once, as I realized I had been... They were around me. I couldn't see them, but I had been brought into this constellation of a pyramid of Them, inside this constellation*

*of—of Angels, of five. And I thought, "Now, death Angel would will be one. Five would be grace." I was thinking that. I thought, "Oh! It's-It's coming with my Message. That's my second climax. They're coming to bring me the Message from the Lord." And I screamed out with all my might, as loud as I could, "O Jesus, what would You have me do?" And when I did, It just--just went away from me.*

*62-1223 The Reproach for the Cause of the Word, Jeffersonville IN*

About a week later, the vision changed. There were no longer five angels in the story; there were seven angels. Oddly, this was Branham's number for "completion."

*But, it shook the earth. And when it did, I was still looking westward. And way off into Eternity, I saw a constellation of something coming. It looked like that it might have been little dots. There could have been no less than five, and not more than seven. But, They were in the shape of a pyramid, like these messengers coming. And when it did, the Power of Almighty God lifted me up to meet them.*

*And I can see It. It's never left me. Eight days has gone, and I can't forget it, yet. I never had anything to bother me like that has. My family will tell you.*

62-1230E IS.THIS.THE.SIGN.OF.THE.END.SIR

During the same sermon, the number changed from “five” to “not more than seven” and then finally, “seven.”

*Knowing nothing about it, a blast come forth, and here come seven Angels from Eternity. I said, "Lord, what would You have me do?" It wasn't told. I may have to go, first, to find out. I don't know. Might not even be that. I don't know. I'm just saying, "What if it is?" If it's Scriptural, that sounds very close to it. Don't you think so? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.]*

*Look. Then, look, the capstone was not interpreted. See? "Get west, and come back." Or, is it this, it's these seven Angels in this constellation that came to me?*

62-1230E IS.THIS.THE.SIGN.OF.THE.END.SIR

So from the plan before the trip, we have a few questions

There were originally five angels, why was the story changed to include seven? What was the significance of Joseph in the vision, and why was he not included in the hunting trip stories afterwards? And did he read works from

Clarence Larkin about the church ages *before* or  
*after* the trip?

## The Event





Hovering like a giant's smoke ring, a great cloud appeared at sunset over Flagstaff, Ariz., last Feb. 28 and set off a continuing scientific mystery. Watchers struck by the cloud's odd shape and huge size, took pictures, like those here, at different times and from widely scattered locations in the state. Dr. James McDonald, a meteorologist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Tucson, has been consulting the pictures. Using them as the basis for trigonometric calculation, he has made a startling discovery that the cloud was at least 25 miles high and 30 miles across—"a lot higher and bigger," he says, "than a cloud should be." The circle was too high to be made by a jet plane, and so far as Dr. McDonald can determine, there was no rocket, rocket plane or bomb being tested nearby that day. He hopes anyone else with pictures will lend them to him, for he would like some more clues about the cloud 25 miles up—no more droplets exist at that height to make a cloud.



8:10 P.M., N.E. OF PRESCOTT



8:15 P.M., N. OF PHOENIX

On February 28, 1963, the event happened. A mysterious cloud floated across Arizona from the east to the west.

Though at the time this was an uncommon occurrence, it is now not so unfamiliar. Several similar photographs have been taken of cloud configurations that are produced by blasts at the nearby air force bases and test sites.

**The Place:**

To start our journey to find the Truth, we must first take the reader to the location William

Branham claimed to be standing as the event took place.

He claimed to be directly below this cloud. Examine this quote:

*And now, the "Life" Magazine picked it up. And I have the-the article here this morning in the "Life" Magazine there, of the s how... Now, **here it is, the same time I was there.** See the pyramid or the Cloud? **I was standing just below this.***

*STANDING.IN.THE.GAP 63-0623M*

You'll find from the research presented in the other writings that the picture displayed in the magazines were taken above Flagstaff, over two hundred and eighty kilometers away from Sunset Peak.

The photographs taken by the eyewitnesses place the path of the cloud from its origin (Vandenberg AFB) across Arizona at an eastward path, not northwest. In Dr. McDonald's report, he stated:

*"Preliminary analysis of the McSpadden photos from Lordsburg indicate an*

*eastward cloud drift speed of 95 mph for the upper limit, and 77 mph for the lower limit" (Dr. McDonald)*

### **The Time:**

The mysterious cloud appeared the evening of February 28, 1963, and passed eastward out of Arizona that same day. During this time, William Branham was in Houston, TX for some meetings, and was headed from there to Tucson, AZ and back to Jeffersonville, IN.

Javelina season in 1963 ran from March 1 through March 10<sup>th</sup>. Fred Sothman, Gene Norman, and William Branham went hunting from March 6<sup>th</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>, and no special out-of-season hunting passes were given.

The second question that can obviously be raised would be: How could he see the cloud on February 28<sup>th</sup> when he was not there until March?

## The Calm Before The Storm

During this time, the account of what happened on the mountain simply referred back to either the five or seven angels in the vision beforehand. The sermons did not include any reference to a cloud, nor did he walk among the angels. Only a reference to the original vision.

Notice, in the first sermon, he has not yet made the trip from Houston, TX to Arizona. He was to go and get his angelic commission, and then race back to Jeffersonville to give the message given to him by the angels.

ABSOLUTE, HOUSTON.TX 63-0304

GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M

BREACH BETWEEN THE SEVEN CHURCH  
AGES AND THE SEVEN  
SEALS 63-0317E

FIRST SEAL, JEFF IN 63-0318

SECOND SEAL, JEFF IN 63-0319

THIRD SEAL, JEFF IN 63-0320

FOURTH SEAL, JEFF IN 63-0321

FIFTH SEAL, JEFF IN 63-0322

SIXTH SEAL JEFF IN 63-0323

SEVENTH SEAL JEFF IN 63-0324E

Throughout the preaching of the “Seven Seals,” the “message” that was supposedly given to him by the “angels”, there is no mention of the cloud. He also *never* mentions having seen the angels up to this point. This is very strange, because this set of sermons seemingly was the reason for the trip in the first place. Had he seen this mysterious cloud or these angels, would he not have mentioned the experience? He definitely mentions everything else about the experience.

He starts out by reminding the congregation of the vision he had before the trip. (Not the vision with the five angels, he mentioned the story given with the seven angels.)

*And you know the vision that I had just before leaving and going out west—of those seven Angels come flying, so you'll understand a little later.*

*GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M*

He reveals the reason why the story changed from five angels to seven angels. Each angel must have the secret describing one of the “seven thunders.”

*We're--we're in teaching, and you can realize what a great strain it is on me (See?), because if I teach anything wrong, I'm going to have to answer for it. See? And so I must not take what anyone says; I must--it must be inspired. And I believe that the Seven Angels who's holds these seven thunders will grant it. See? And I'm...*

*GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M*

It is interesting that he says, “I must not take what anyone says for it,” because the entire “mystery” is exactly the same as described by Clarence Larkin.

Then, the focus goes directly into “The King’s Sword,” which was the spectacular part of the event before the magazine article was printed.

*So...?... we are... How many in here has read "What Time Is It, Sirs?" or has heard it, you know, "What Time Is It, Sirs?" That's bothered me quite a bit. If you haven't, I wish some way, if you could get a--to hear it or some way... Kind of bothered me, I just wanted to drop this before starting the service. About--about a week or ten days ago I was so*

*disturbed, I just... I--I—I just didn't... I wouldn't take services or anything, because I--I didn't know. It--it seemed like it could be something that was bad, and I didn't know just what it was. So I...*

*One early morning, I got up to go up into Sabino Canyon, which from the house is only about thirty minutes drive to the--or forty to the head of the Sabino Canyon; then there's a road that runs thirty miles up into the mountain: strange country up there. I can be here on the desert where it's eighty and ninety, right now, and in thirty minutes be in eight foot of snow (See?), on top of the mountain.*

*We was at Phoenix just recently where it was twenty something, twenty-eight degrees (They had the swimming pool heated, people swimming.) and about forty minutes drive from there, it was forty below zero at Flagstaff. See? That's the difference from the up currents and the desert... And very healthy for asthmatics and so forth. But...*

*Now, I went up in the canyon, and I climbed way as high as I could go, and I--I--I asked the Lord, while setting up in there, what all this meant and so forth. I was kinda bothered and didn't know just what to do. And so, while I was praying, and strange thing happened. I--I--I want to be honest. Now, I could've fallen asleep. It could've been like a*



*trance, or it could've been a--a vision. I'm more less inclined to believe that it was a vision that... I had my hands out saying, "Lord, what does this blast mean, and what does these seven Angels in a constellation of--of the pyramid, picking me up from off the ground and turning eastward: what does it mean?"*

*I was standing there in prayer, and something happened. And now, something fell in my hand. Now, I know if you don' understand spiritual things, it may seem very strange. But something struck in my hand; and when I looked, it was a sword. And the handle was made of pearl, the prettiest pearl I ever seen. And the--the guard (you know, where I guess, it's to keep your hands from being lanced, you know, while you're--the--the people were dueling) was gold.*

*And the saber's blade wasn't too long, but it was just razor sharp, and it was glistening silver. And it was the prettiest thing I ever seen. It just fit my hand exactly, and I was holding it. I said, "Isn't that pretty?" I looked at it, and I thought, "But you know, I always afraid of a sword." I was kind of glad that I lived out of the days that they used them, because I--I'm afraid of a knife. And so I—I thought, "What would I do with that?"*

*GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M*

The location of the event gets very fuzzy here. It was evidently near the Mexican border, not in the northern part of the state where the cloud was photographed. Remember, the description of the vision included a reference to being carried to the south.

*Notice, there's witnesses of three setting in here, that a week ago (a little over a week ago) I was up way back into the mountains, nearly to Mexico, with two brethren that's setting here, picking cocklebur--or sand burrs off of my trouser leg, and a blast went off that almost, looked like, shook the mountains down. Now, that's right. I never told my brethren, but they noticed a difference. And He said to me, "Now, be ready. Go east."*

GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M

It is an odd statement for a pastor to make, especially looking backwards in time while reviewing all of the contradictions surrounding the strange cloud, but Branham makes the “witnesses” take an oath not to speak about portions of the event.

*Yeah, there he stands right there. I persuaded... but yet, He said, "He won't do it." I never said*

*nothing, went on. Something setting by the side of the tent the day that... You remember, Brother Sothmann, that I, as soon as some things was being told that I put you and Brother Norman...*

*Where's Brother Norman? Back there. Put them under oath that they wouldn't mention what was taking place. Is that right? Did I turn around and walk away from that tent, like that? Is that right? Because this is what it was, exactly what it was, and knowing that I couldn't say it till it happened to see if the people would understand it.*

GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M

Also an odd statement is the proud, boastful comments about the “seventh angel.” Since Branham taught that *he* was that seventh angel, would a humble-spirited man talk about an angel with a puffed-out chest?

*And the one right next to me here, counting from the left to the right, would've been the seventh Angel. He was brighter, meant more to me than the rest of them. You remember, I said he had his chest out like that, and was flying eastward. You remember like that? And I said, "It picked me up, lifted me up." Do you remember that? Here it is. The one with the*

*Seventh Seal, the thing that I've wondered all my life. Amen. Them other Seals meant a lot to me, of course, but, oh, you don't know what this has meant.*

GOD HIDING HIMSELF IN SIMPLICITY  
63-0317M

What is even more interesting is that there were three witnesses agreeing that his position was south of Tucson.

*What if that was the breaking of that Seal? What if that was the Angel that sent forth there, that blasted (almost) me off of the ground, the other day, standing back there, when three witnesses are standing close. That I told you before I went, "There would be an explosion that would almost send me up." And I was caught up by seven Angels, and come eastward. The thing like to shook me from the ground. Is that right, Brother Norman, Brother Fred Sothmann, who was standing with me when it happened, above Tucson? And the--the... Setting, picking the burrs off of my clothes, exactly what the vision said. And it was south of... towards Tucson. If that's right, raise up your hand, Brother Fred, Brother Norman. There they are. Stand up on your feet, so the people can see that you were there, a witness. I never heard anything like it, in my life. And, immediately, they didn't hunt,*

*the rest the day. I begged Fred, the next morning. He don't know this. I begged him to go out hunting, kept saying, "Do it. Do it." But He said, He told me back there, "He won't do it. You're going East, right now." And them seven Angels! The first blast, she opened.*  
63-0318 THE.FIRST.SEAL

This sermon, "The Seventh Seal" contained portions that were originally un-released. It is a direct contradiction between actual scientific data, so one must ask question exactly *why* this sermon was kept from the public.

It refers back to the vision of the "constellation" instead of seven angels in the form of a cloud.

*Now, notice, remember the vision of the constellation? Charlie, I... Here you are. Something going on, I told you, this week that you... It's been all around you, but I wonder if you noticed it. Remember the constellation of the vision of the Angels when I left here to go to Arizona? You remember, "What Time Is It, Sirs?" Do you remember that?*

*Notice, there was only one great burst of thunder, and seven Angels appeared. Is that right? One burst of thunder, seven Angels appeared.*

*And I saw the Lamb when He had opened the First Seal, and I heard as it was a voice of a thunder, and one of the four beasts said, Come and see.*

*Notice, one thunder, seven messages that's been sealed up and cannot be revealed until the last day, at this age. See what I mean?*

*Now, have you noticed the mysterious parts of this week? That's what it is.  
63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL*

The voice of the great thunder supposedly gave Branham the divine revelation of the "Seven Seals." He claimed that he did not know them before, and that they were revealed to him that very week. It is interesting that the mysteries match almost exactly to the works of Clarence Larkin.

*Now, the voice of that great thunder and the mission that was brought here has been revealed that it--and proven that it was of God. Just think now. I knew not these Seals, and they been revealed this week. Did anybody think of that? Of those seven Angels, being This, being the message that was coming forth, them Angels bringing me back here for that?*

*63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL*

He then talks himself into a bind. In Branham's theology, he believed that he was the "seventh angel" of revelation. You can tell that he has to dance around that a good bit since he changed the number of angels from five to seven.

*Remember, the seventh messenger was... The seven messengers was... The noted one to me, the seventh Angel, it seemed more to me than any. Now, see, they were standing like this (Now, we just want you to notice.), and I was standing here, and I was watching those other... See, one...*

63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL

He reminds the listeners of his vision of the birds and the angels.

*First bunch of little birds, feathers all beat down. You remember them? And they all flew eastward. And the second bunch were brighter, bigger birds, looked like doves, pointed wings; they flew eastward: first pull, second pull. Then the next was Angels.*

63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL

Again, he brings the seventh angel up to show the special significance:

*And as--I was standing right there, and this explosion left, and I was looking this*

*way, towards the west, and they come and just picked me up in there, and I went plumb out of my knowing. And the one of them coming was the one that looked so strange to me, was the one on my, be to left where I entered the constellation at, but counting from the left to the right, it would've been the seventh Angel (See?), coming across.*

63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL

This is the “released” portion of the tape, containing only the elements of the story that the Branham campaign wanted the public to hear. Notice the absence of several of the conflicting facts.

*The seven Angels... I was in the west. You remember the little bitty messengers; they went east. The second messengers, the doves (little bit larger bird), they went east. And now, I looked... They was with me all the time. That was that first and second pull. Now, the third came from the west sweeping forward with great terrific speed, and they picked me up. That was coming back east with the mystery of these Seven Seals, just like it said in--in Junior Jackson's dream that the Lord let me interpret for him there. On the inside of that pyramid, there was white stone that wasn't written on. That's the reason I had to go*



*west to connect with these Angel's message to come back here to reveal it to the church. You remember, I said, "The next things that happen will be here at the church." That's just exactly.*

*Another thing, I want you to notice what taken place, And if you're listening to the tape of the "What Time Is It, Sir?" you will notice that one Angel was very notable to me. The rest of them just was--seemed ordinarily; but this Angel was a noted Angel. He was to my left I the constellation in a form of a pyramid. And you remember, it was in the pyramid where the mysterious white rock was not written on. And the Angels took me into that pyramid of themselves, the mysteries of God known only to them. And now, they with the messengers that come to interpret that pyramid or that message of the secret of these Seven Seals which lays with inside the pyramid.*

*Now, the Angel was to my left, would really be the last, or seventh Angel, if we would count them from left to right, because he was on my left, me looking to him towards the west, him coming towards the east would be on the left side, so that would be the last angel's message: very notable. You remember how I said he had his--kind of his head back, and his great sharp wings, and how he flew right to me. Now, that is this Seventh Seal. It's still is a notable thing.*

*And we are... We don't know what it is as yet, because it's not permitted to be broken. But now, each one of you in the meeting has noticed that what a meeting it's been Everybody just seemed to be right on the end of their seat, and everybody standing around here at one and two o'clock in the afternoon waiting for the doors to open to get up here in the front, standing around the walls, cramped limbs, and everything. What is it? It's been the Holy Spirit sending down these messengers, and they have been revealing it to us. And then notice how it's dovetailed with the Word, exactly.*

*And then to let you all know that this is truth, He foretold it about--about two months now, or more, before it ever happened, that when I went west, not knowing it, come back here with the interpretation as He has given it. Now, remember, in the vision, He never told me one thing in the vision when He took me up. I was scared, afraid I was going to die, be killed in an explosion. You see, they could not do it. The interpretation come just as I had need of it; that was in the room. And I gave it out just as He give it.*

63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL

## The Story Changes Over Time

The strange part of the stories about the trip during the rest of his ministry is the fact that there is about 85% hunting story and only about 15% worship to God.

When William Branham rushed back to teach the 'Seven Seals', the focus was on the 'Sword of the King.' Long descriptions are given describing a physical sword that he held in his hand. (63-0324E P268)

He describes being 'lifted up' to view the 'third pull ministry' that would include a large tent – which never happened until his death. (63-0324E P 299)

The seven angels were a constellation in the shape of a pyramid, not in a cloud that is the shape of 'the face of Jesus.' (63-0324E P 310)

Oddly, he warned that when this story (of the pyramid and sword) get on tape, some will say that he was trying to make himself a prophet, and that is error. Yet, the entire sermon pointed to himself to be the seventh angel of the pyramid (63-0324E P325)

Over time, his story grew. The 'Sword of the King' was no longer the focus. He started to describe interaction with the angels, whereas the

previous accounts made no mention of such interaction. The cloud was much more magnificent, and (at the time of the publication) was a mystery to science.

He later said that a circle of mist came up from the ground, turning and sweeping like a 'mystic light' or a 'fog'. (65-1127B P 74)

He said (incorrectly) that there was no humidity or anything up there that could have formed a cloud because it was too high. (65-1127B P77)

Compare the two stories given by William Branham, one before the magazine article and one after the publication.

**Before:**

*That's what it's been. It's been, not a human being, a man; it has been the Angels of the Lord. Notice, there's witnesses of three setting in here, that a week ago (a little over a week ago) I was up way back into the mountains, nearly to Mexico, with two brethren that's setting here, picking cocklebur--or sand burrs off of my trouser leg, and a blast went off that almost, looked like, shook the mountains down. Now, that's right. I never told my brethren, but they noticed a difference. And He said to me, "Now, be ready. Go east."*

***Here's the interpretation of that vision. See? "Now, to let you know, Brother Sothmann has not got the game that he went after." We was trying to get it for him. And He said, "Now, tonight, for a sign to you, he isn't going to do it. You must consecrate yourself at this time for the visitation of these Angels." And I felt beside myself, you remember. And I was in the west; the Angels was coming east. And as they come by, I was picked up with them (You remember that?), coming east.***

63-0324E THE.SEVENTH.SEAL\_

**After:**

***I saw seven angels come. Didn't "Life" Magazine pack it, just a fog of It floated across here twenty- seven miles high and thirty miles across. Is not Fred Sothmann and these others, Gene Norman and them setting back there, stood right there when them seven Angels appeared right there on the hill? It shook the hills for miles around like that. **There stood seven Angels and threwed a sword in a hand** and said, "Go home and open these Seven Seals that are given." 65-0410)***

In fact, the event changed many times, including the following focal points:

- King's sword

- Constellation
- Group of Angels
- Mist and Fog
- Jesus Christ himself

The real question here is: *Why would he need to consecrate himself to return to Jeffersonville to see the angels when he later claimed he already had been with them?*

*And how is the "King's Sword" now mixed into this event at Sunset Peak, when it happened in Sabino Canyon?*

In between the Seventh Seal and finding Life Magazine, Branham preached two sermons in Albuquerque, one in Tempe, and one in Phoenix. He did not mention the angels at all during any of these sermons.

The first time Branham describes the angels that came down to earth was in Arizona- *after* seeing the Life Magazine article.

This time, however, it was described as being *north* of Tucson instead of *south* towards the Mexican border.

*But I realize, Lord, something that happened just a few hours before that great shock, or great blast, had taken place in the mountain up there, north of Tucson, when the Angels of the Lord came down. I remember what was said, and--and especially about the young people. I pray Thee, Lord, to help us to understand. And may I be able to say something to these young folks, tonight, that will help them along the journey. For, Lord, we all need that help at this time.*

*63-0601 COME.FOLLOW.ME\_ TUCSON.AZ*

The confusion worsens over time. Though the “angels” he would be referring to would have been the ones photographed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, his javelina hunt began on or after March 6<sup>th</sup>

*\_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-6 N-7 SUNDAY\_*

*Brother Fred Sothmann, I know he's here. And I'm pretty sure Brother Norman is here. We was up... I had to go to Houston about getting that little boy saved from the electric chair.*

*And then I went back and I went hunting up there with the brethren. And that morning, I was standing there picking cockleburs, or--or what they call goatheads there, burrs off of my trouser leg. And the blast did just exactly the way It said it. Is that right, Brother Fred? And I--I--I must have jumped way off of the ground. And just above me was the Angels of the Lord*



*that sent Message back, for me to come here to break these Seals.*

*63-0623M STANDING.IN.THE.GAP*

Notice Branham admitted that he did not see the event happen until *after* he returned from Houston, TX. So now we have a different location than the original vision, and a different time than the photographed cloud.

Once again, he describes the angels lowering themselves to the ground:

*And, now, I didn't know at the time, that they were taking pictures of that, scientists was, as the Angels lowered themselves from Heaven, to bring the Message.*

*63-0623M STANDING.IN.THE.GAP*

He then claims that he was standing directly underneath the cloud as it happened. What is odd is that he claimed not to be a “tape salesman,” but this would ultimately lead to the boosted sales of the tapes.

*And I was talking to someone a few minutes ago.*

*If you look in Life magazine, last month, you'll see there. And you got that tape. I'm not a tape salesman. But if you ever believed the Words*

*that I preach, and you can afford it, get The Seven Seals, and first get What Time Is It, Sirs? Listen to that spoke of, six months before it happened. And science is baffled. Standing right under where it was happening there. And told them, six months before, how that there would be seven Angels in a form of a constellation, and look like a pyramid, would drop down. And I would be standing north of Tucson, Arizona, and there would be a roar that would even shake the rocks from the mountains. Brother Fred Sothmann sitting there, who was standing with us, many of them, when it happened.*

*Now science took the picture of It, you seen It, went on Associated Press. They didn't know what It was. There is a Cloud hanging, twenty-six miles high. That's fifteen miles, or twenty, above even where vapor is at. They don't know what it's all going about, and they are trying to investigate It. And there, right under It, I was standing. And those seven Angels roaring out their voices, of those Seven Seals, standing there. And the witness, three of us, as a witness of the things that was prophesied on the tape, Sirs, What Time Is It? And there now they're trying to find out. It's a mystery to them. Some of them said, "Go, go, why don't you go tell them?"*

*63-0628M O.LORD.JUST.ONCE.MORE*

He then gives some false claims about scientific data to lead people off of the trail, not knowing that the McDonald report would be published years later for all to see. Though he claims non vapors or mists can be at the altitude of the cloud, the report analysis tells a different story.

*I met Brother Fred and Brother Norman, about a hour later, when I found them. They were excited and talking about it. There it is. And science says that it's impossible for—for any kind of a--a mist or anything get that high, fog, vapor. See? It'll only go just... I wouldn't know. I--I...*

*We, when we go overseas, we travel nine thousand feet. That's above the storms. That's approximately about four miles. And say, let's say, maybe it's fifteen miles till you can't get no more vapor. But this is twenty-six miles, and she hung there all day. See? They don't know what It is. But, thank the Lord, we do.*

*Thank you, Brother Hickerson. I'll keep it on my desk in there. And when we write the book, why, then we can have it.*

*63-0630E IS YOUR LIFE WORTHY OF THE  
GOSPEL*

Then, a mistake is made. According to Branham, one of the “witnesses” was standing directly beside him when the event happened.

*Like the March 17th, the March issue of the Life magazine, you seen that circle of Light in the skies, thirty miles high, twenty-seven miles across. Why, moisture is only about nine miles high, and they can't even make up what it was.*

*And right standing beneath that, a man that is sitting right present now, was right standing there by me, when seven Angels come down from God, visibly standing right there, and told me about the end time, and these revelations and things of the Book of Revelation, the Seven Seals, and said, "Return home, and one by one will bring the Message." That, that's right. And It went right up, and begin to turn white as It went up, on up; and a blast that shook the mountains, till rocks, size of a--of a--a bucket, fell out of the mountains, like that.*

63-1128M TESTIMONY

He admits that the cloud was being investigated, and followers still today have the initial research data. He describes the preliminary report, which is the report used to support Branham's arguments about the mysterious cloud. He does not mention any of the subsequent reports that followed.

*And nothing was around. Even the newspaper said they checked to see if there was a sound*

*breaker, or a plane, or something. There was nothing, no planes up, nor nothing. Besides, a plane breaker could not do that.*

*And then it was foretold it would be that way, six months before it happened, six months. And there It was. And the science searching it today, right there in Tucson and different places, they can't understand what was that up there. Then if you'll get the magazine and look, you can even see the shapes of Their wings is still in there as They're going up, the seven Angels. And we know that these things are correct, friends. Oh, if there ever was a time that the church ought to be in deep sincerity, it should be right now. Now!*

In April of 1965, in Phoenix Arizona, the location of the sword moved from Sabino Canyon to Sunset Peak.

*That's what I'm in Arizona for, right now.*

*There's many people sitting right here, stood right here at Phoenix, and heard me tell you from this very platform, "THUS SAITH THE LORD." How many remembers it? "Now go. Something is fixing to happen."*

*I saw seven Angels come. Didn't Life magazine pack it, as the fog of It floated across here,*

*twenty-seven miles high, and thirty miles across? Is not Fred Sothmann, these other, Gene Norman, them, setting back there? Stood right there when them seven Angels appeared right there on the hill. It shook the hills, for miles around, like that. There stood seven Angels. And threwed a sword in your hand, said, "Go home and open these Seven Seals that are given." And here they are, the true mystery of marriage and divorce, and the serpent's seed, and all of these things that's been fussed about. It's THUS SAITH THE LORD.*

65-0410 THE.EASTER.SEAL

In the very same month, back in Tucson, the sword moved back to Sabino Canyon.

*I would like to call your attention this morning to a--a picture that sometime ago was taken by the camera, of a vision that I had here at the tabernacle, of leaving Indiana, to Arizona; where I was to meet, in the form of a pyramid, seven Angels. Not knowing what would happen later, when I got there, thinking it was the end of my life, that no one could stand the blast; and I'm sure all of you are acquainted with the story. And then in Sabino Canyon, one morning like this, while in prayer, there had been a sword placed in my hand, and said, "This is the Word, and the Sword of the Word."*

*Later, the Angels appeared as was prophesied.  
And at the same time, a great cluster of  
Light left where I was standing, and moved  
thirty miles high in the air, and around the  
circle, like the wings of the Angels and drew  
into the skies a shape of a pyramid in the same  
constellation of Angels that appeared.*

*Science took the picture, all the way from  
Mexico, as it moved from northern  
Arizona, where the Holy Spirit said I would be  
standing, "forty miles northeast of Tucson."  
And it went into the air, and Life magazine  
packed the pictures, "A mystic something way  
in the spheres, where there could be no  
moisture, where there could be no  
evaporations of anything; thirty miles  
high, and twenty-seven miles across," and  
coming right up from where those Angels were.*

*65-0418M IT.IS.THE.RISING.OF.THE.SUN\_*

## Conclusion



If you follow the progression of the story, it is clear to see that what started out as a simple vision to start a new hunting trip changed into a much larger story about magical swords, strange blasts, and supernatural clouds. Let's review:

First, there was a vision of birds and angels pointing him in the direction he must go to learn the "secret" of the "seven seals" that William Branham learned from the works of Clarence Larkin.

Next, the "King's sword" was added to the story, giving it a mythical aspect that was a more intriguing tale. This was to take place south of Tucson.

Unaware to William Branham while he was in Houston, TX, a strange cloud floated across the sky in northern Arizona.

He went hunting in what he claimed to be southern Arizona near the Mexican border, and claimed that "a blast" and an angel told him to return to Jeffersonville, where the angels would meet him in his study to reveal the "Seven Seals."

He returned to Jeffersonville, IN to preach the "Seven Seals" he learned from the works of Clarence Larkin.

The magazine article was printed, showing a picture of the cloud that was taken above Flagstaff, Arizona.

Afterwards, the “King’s Sword” part of the story moved from southern Arizona to the location of where he assumed the cloud was positioned.

Finally, in an ever-changing story, the angels met him in Arizona instead of in his study back home in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The cloud was integrated into the story and the “King’s sword” is rarely mentioned. The original vision is forgotten over time, and assimilated into the cloud event without question.

For the true Christian, whether William Branham was in Houston, TX, or Arizona is irrelevant. Whether the cloud was higher than vapor or not is not the issue. Whether the “King’s Sword” tale was fabricated or not is not the question.

What matters is the message. Had William Branham come back from Tucson and preached a new revelation that brought an amazing new truth that lined up with the Bible, the story might be more believable.

What he returned with was a set of descriptions of several works by Clarence Larkin. He

returned with a very interesting hunting story that puffed out the chest of the “seventh angel.” His doctrines, his preaching, and his belief system remained exactly the same afterwards as it was before. There was nothing brought from the hunting trip that was new or revealed, nothing made known that was secret beforehand.

The Bible warns of those that would rise in the last days, showing great signs and wonders. False prophets will come and mislead the people. They will be so close to the Truth that they will deceive the very elect if it were possible.

We have to ask ourselves: Are we the very elect? Have we been deceived?

## About the Author

John Collins is the author and Webmaster of [www.seekyethetruth.com](http://www.seekyethetruth.com).

Almost 36 years in “the Message”, the name of the group of people (cult) following the teachings of William Marrion Branham, John has dedicated his life towards helping those who are still in this cult, and to those who are no longer bound but serving Jesus Christ with many questions. His goal is to remind both groups that we serve a living God who does not look to any organization, doctrine, mystery, or gift of the Spirit; we serve a God who looks at the heart.

His main purpose is to point others back to the Bible, which is the Absolute. All words of men may fail, but the Word of God will never fail. We should put our hearts and minds back on Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that ALL could be saved by grace through faith.

Seek Ye The Truth started as a central place for all cult followers to ask the questions openly and anonymously, many of which they had in their hearts and minds for several years and were afraid to ask. The original goal was to go "hand in hand" with the local pastors, spreading the answers and vindicating the teachings of William Marrion Branham.

As research started to progress, more false teachings were found than truths. More prophecies had failed than had succeeded. None could be proven. Bible teachings came from Gnostic texts and other strange beliefs, and did not line up with the Word of God. Cult pastors had no answer.

While some live normal lives walking "middle ground," many are starting to become very hurt and abused. Many suffer depression. Physical and sexual abuse, and self-condemnation stories started surfacing.

Over time, Seek Ye The Truth slowly transformed from a site of questions into a site dedicated to help those in need. There are almost two million cult followers of William Branham around the world, making it larger than some of the other cult followings, and there are almost no support groups for those desperately seeking help. Please join us as we help others.

God Bless You!