

RIVERBANK NEWS

A Publication of The Ol' Ship of Zion

MESSAGE 2 - 1994

CAPERNAUM BY THE SEA! (Exalted into the heavens)

By Gordon F. Nelson

"O' thou Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven...for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." Matthew 11:23-24.

Self-sufficient, independent Capernaum was chosen to witness "the mighty miracles" of Christ. These same miracles would have made Sodom repent! Pride is incredible. "Exalted to the heavens!", but Jesus declared, *"thou shalt be brought down to hell!"* Matthew 11:23.

Going into Capernaum can be likened unto Moses presenting himself before Pharaoh. Moses was the "meekest man that ever lived". The word "meek" does not mean "weak". Capernaum, like Pharaoh, only respects strength and power. Jesus Christ is a type of Moses going into the all-sufficient Capernaum to demonstrate real power.

Jesus approached Capernaum with humility (blanketed upon Him by His Heavenly Father) to humble the pride of Capernaum. Jesus lost! Such was the pride of Capernaum. He would have been declared a winner in Sodom, but not in Capernaum by the sea.

"And He did not many mighty works there (Nazareth) because of their unbelief." Matthew 13:58. It is said, "familiarity breeds contempt". Jesus grew up in Nazareth, *"And they were offended in Him."* Jesus said unto them, *"A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, AND IN HIS OWN HOUSE."* Once again, Jesus was defeated by familiarity. *"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother Mary and His brethren James, and Joses, and Simon and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this Man all these things?"* None of his own house could believe, until His resurrection from the dead! Matthew 13:55-58.

America had a similar visitation in the ministry of the late William Branham. Did miracles bring revival in the 1950's through 1970's? Gordon Lindsay's Voice of Healing went monthly into every Christian home reporting "sign-gift" ministry. We saw goiters disappear, crossed eyes straightened, the deaf to hear. I was there! This revival is what shut the mouths of lions! It was America's hour of visitation, and she never humbled herself.

Brother Branham would declare, "If you're attending a World Council of Churches church, you don't need to worry about the number 666; you've already got it."

The religious portion of America is glad he is gone. Walter Martin, founder of Christian Research Institute (C.R.I.), declares, "God smote him!". He was killed in an auto accident by a drunk driver driving on the wrong side of the road - a head on collision.

Jesus came to die. Because William Branham didn't rise from the dead, C.R.I. cannot believe. Walter Martin met an untimely death himself, after such blasphemy. This is a war with Dallas Theological Seminary School of Theology that never ends.

Jesus failed, not only in Capernaum, but he never converted the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees of His day. All He could do was rail on them. *"But woe to you scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."* Matthew 23:13. C.R.I. makes sure you never "go through the door" into the Father's kingdom via the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in unknown tongues.

"Woe unto you scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourself. Woe unto you, ye blind guides...!" Matthew 23:15-16. If C.R.I. were concerned about "error" in the faith, why don't they investigate Harold Camping and his book 1994?, which predicts the end of the world in September, 1994. We are in the tribulation period now? without an antichrist? The Jews will not rebuild the temple, because it doesn't work within the time frame of Harold Camping's time clock. There is not enough time! Write in to C.R.I. for a fact sheet on Harold Camping. He is in the unconditional eternal salvation club headquartered at Dallas Theological Seminary, of which Hank Hanegraaff is a graduate. Would Hank Hanegraaff (successor of the late Walter Martin's Bible Answer Man radio broadcast) display the same tenacity of intellectualism on the Harold Camping book, 1994? as he did exposing the Pentecostal "Word-Faith" ministries of Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Marilyn Hickey, Frederick K. Price, and E.W. Kenyon? The prejudice of a Dallas Theological graduate makes him incapable of a balanced judgment. Harold Camping would be considered a "brother", due to his "unconditional eternal security" views. If you don't believe this lie, your elevator simply does not go to the top; hence you're on the "hit list". Walter Martin even classified the Nazarene's as a cult.

Wake up, church! Benny Hinn, although repentant, continues to be castigated by Christian Research Institute. Why? Because they represent a spirit that absolutely cannot tolerate "speaking in unknown tongues". Walter Martin was asked publicly if he ever spoke in tongues. His answer to a packed audience at Trinity Church in Sacramento was, "None of your damn business!"

"Ye fools and blind." Matthew 23:17. *"Woe unto you scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint..."* Matthew 23:23. Walter Martin declared the paying of tithes was legalism and not New Testament doctrine. *"Ye blind guides which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel! Woe unto you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup...Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup (heart)...Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward..."* Matthew 23:24-27. This is Capernaum, where Jesus began His ministry.

Why didn't Christ get Capernaum saved? Was He an inept preacher? Did He not love Capernaum? Did Christ die for Capernaum? *"Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men...Woe unto you scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets...wherefore be ye witness ye are the children of them that killed the prophets. Ye serpents* (hath God said the last nine verses of St.

Mark?), *ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets and wise men and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill...that upon you shall come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel...Verily, I say unto you, all these things shall come upon this generation.*" Matthew 23:28-36.

You do not convert religious people! Jesus looked on sinners in a whole new light; never railing on them! In fact, invited Himself as a guest to their homes. *"Zaccheaus, make haste, and come down: for today I must abide in thy house."* Luke 19:5. *"...and when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, that He was gone to be the guest of a sinner. And Zaccheaus stood and said unto the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor: and if I have taken anything from any man falsely, I restore him fourfold.'"* Luke 19:8. Sinners are convicted of sin; the religionists are immune, like they have been vaccinated.

"And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it saying, 'If thou hadst known, even thou!...but now they are hid from thine eyes.'" He prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem, *"because they knew not the time of their visitation."* Luke 19:41,44.

Jerusalem and Capernaum knew not the hour of their visitation, but he'll continue to *"send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes"*. All the wise men don't stem from Dallas Theological Seminary and C.R.I. God says He will send *"and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues (as was William Branham), and persecute them from city to city (via radio)."* Matthew 23:34.

Do you know your hour of visitation?

Blindness came upon the entire church through rejection of the William Branham approach to evangelism. The people wanted a king! *"...but now they are hid from thine eyes!"* Luke 19:41. Jerusalem went blind after her hour of visitation. America went blind as they listened to Oral Robert's "prosperity" message. *"But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee (You have your Oral Roberts, Jimmy Swaggart, Jim & Tammy Bakker, Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Marilyn Hickey, your tele-queens and tele-kings to rule over you.): for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."* 1 Samuel 8:6-7.

Our nation which *"sat in darkness saw a great light: and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, light is sprung up."* Matt. 4:16. The Apostle John instructs us to *"walk in the light as he is in the light."* 1 John 1:7. Jesus said unto them, *"Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."* John 12:35. It is Paul's mission *"to open their eyes (the Gentiles), to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God that they should receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith that is in me."* Acts 26:18. *"If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."* Matt. 6:23. You are in serious trouble when you believe these Dallas Theology boys that tell you that the light in you can never turn to darkness. *"And this is the*

condemnation then, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." John 3:19.

Had America chosen William Branham as a man of faith and power, we would never have seen the charlatans that served God as mercenaries, namely, Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart, etc., being *"lords over God's heritage"*. 1 Peter 5:3. Success, is the god we serve in America.

William Branham, pastor of a small Baptist church in Indiana that totally rejected the idea of "materialism", could hardly be accepted in sophisticated America. This was the 20th century! We wanted preachers to satisfy our lusts, thus Oral Robert's "seed doctrine" was birthed. From it evolved the "health and wealth gospel", and finally, you become a "little god" and receive *"whatsoever you saith"*. Mark 11:23.

I attended an annual Kenneth Hagin camp meeting event held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We were instructed to come to the altar and repeat forty times whatsoever we lusted after, and we would have our Mercedes Benz sitting in our driveway! Just return home and look!

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: and they shall turn away their ears from the truth (no eternal security here) and shall be turned aside to fables." 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

*"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a SNARE" (Gk. trap). 1 Timothy 6:9. It costs so much money to be a televangelist, that preachers on television fall into a SNARE. How about you? *"And take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be OVERCHARGED (Gk. to burden, weightier, burdensome) with surfeiting (a headache, as a seizure of pain, from being drunk) and cares of this life, and so that DAY come upon you unawares. For as a SNARE (the hour of temptation, Rev. 3:10) shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore (and FAST is inferred to curb appetites) and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to (make it through the first 3½ years) stand before the Son of Man."* Luke 21:34-36. Certainly, no unconditional security here! *"Blessed and holy (you must be HOLY) are those that partake in the first resurrection!"* Revelation 20:6.*

Most Christians will be on the second ship! *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."* Revelation 20:5. These are the "only believe" type Christian, that only trusted in His Name to be saved. *"... saved as by fire."* 1 Corinthians 3:15.

Preachers lie to the people, saying only sinners will appear before the Great White Throne. If this were true, why would the "Book of Life" be opened? *"And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."* Revelation 20:15.

Peter says, *"Therefore, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure..."* 2 Peter 1:10. Get in on the first resurrection. It is the only way YOU can make it SURE! Left to the second ship out, you will do a lot of sweating before God finds your name in the Book. David prayed, *"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living."* Psalms 69:28. Maybe this is the reason Jesus said, *"Agree with thine adversary quickly."* Matthew 5:25.

This message, if taken to heart, will sober you up! You have been made drunk through Dallas Theological Seminary graduates, whose founder is Dr. C.I. Scofield. Joseph Goebbels stated, "When you lie, tell a big one, repeat it often, and the people will believe!"

The single biggest lie believed in the world is evolution. Finally, you escaped that "big lie" via the new birth, only to be introduced to another one; unconditional salvation! The angels in heaven never had that kind of a deal. God never created robots, even in the angelic hosts! They worship God because they want to. Any time you love darkness more than the light, you're in serious trouble. *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet!"* Psalm 119:105. I found direction for my own life through this message on Capernaum by the sea. How about you?

Capernaum! Nothing moves them! They are unconditionally secure in their religion. They have daily immunization shots via the radio and television preachers to help secure their insecurity. Trained at Dallas Theological Seminary, their verbiage makes black appear white. Because they all agree that "tongues is of the devil", doesn't make it so! It is just Capernaum's religion! Harold Camping declares all miracles, signs and wonders, died with the publishing of the Gutenberg Bible! Gutenberg stopped "signs and wonders" because we have the written word!

If it weren't for the fact so many lives are destroyed by these lies, it would be hilariously funny! *"God truly has hidden the truth from the wise and the prudent and revealed it to babes."* Matthew 11:25.

Paul tells of "a man in Christ", how he was caught up into the third heaven. Paul doesn't know whether he met the man *"in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell."* Evidently, Paul *"was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter,"* come from this man he once knew fourteen years ago. 2 Corinthians 12:3-4.

What were these "unspeakable words" that the religious Jews could not handle, due to their tradition? Was it after this experience that Paul re-dedicates his life? *"That I might know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death, if by ANY MEANS (Rome severing his head) I might attain unto the (first) resurrection of the dead."* Philippians 3:10-11. Paul termed this first resurrection, *"I press toward the mark (martyrdom - even Agabus couldn't deter him) for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:14. It was a blessed event to be counted worthy to leave the grave on the first ship of Zion! *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection."* Revelation 20:6. Could these "unspeakable words", which were not lawful to be uttered, to be understood at the end time, to free the church from the "doctrines" of Capernaum? Daniel was instructed to *"shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end."* Daniel 12:4.

According to Harold Camping, to unveil these words, after the Gutenberg Bible was first printed in Germany, you would be "adding to" the word of God and thus your name is blotted out of the Book of Life. And surely you would be "adding to" by even inquiring of these "unspeakable words" uttered in Paradise that Paul heard.

Nonetheless, the Apostle Paul alludes to these two resurrections. *"As a wise master builder, I have*

laid the foundation...let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." 1 Corinthians 3:10. (How you build could mean the difference in the resurrection.)

(a) Build with gold, silver, and precious stones, you will be in the first resurrection.

(b) Build with wood, hay and stubble, and you are headed for the Great White Throne judgment. These will be judged by "their works".

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the DAY (Great White Throne) shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward...If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." 1 Corinthians 3:13,15.

This second resurrection is separated by 1,000 years. Even Catholics believe, as with their doctrine of "purgatory", there has to be two ships out! The second one has to be the size of the Titanic in order to hold them all! Only "kings and priests unto God" make the first one, and they alone shall rule and reign with Christ on this earth for 1,000 years. Of course, you would have a new body to last the 1,000 years!

All followers of Capernaum theology rejected the "seal of God". No "unsealed merchandise" will be accepted in the first resurrection. *"Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house or brethren, and sisters and mothers and children, and lands for my sake and the gospel's. But he shall receive a hundredfold NOW in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions: AND in the world to come eternal life."* Mark 10:29-30. AND attain unto the first resurrection. Read it. Mark 10:31, *"But many that are first shall be last (Great White Throne) and the last first (the first resurrection)."* Capernaum's religion makes you FIRST in this life as far as respectability, but LAST in the resurrection. Your hatred for the Holy Ghost - preventing them that "would go in", will thus seal your fate to the second resurrection.

Just pray your name has not been blotted out! *"Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did (Capernaum) so do ye."* Acts 7:51. The spirit of the Sadducees is still in the church, that is why they are so sad-u-see! Capernaum lived by the sea with Dallas Theological Seminary graduates to assure them of their "unconditional salvation".

The Bible was never intended to comfort "Capernaum by the sea", but it was about those who *"loved not their lives unto death"* (Revelation 12:11), of martyrs who became the "seed of the church". No one is willing to die for Capernaum's religion, no matter how secure they are made to feel. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* John 15:13.

Capernaum cries out to live. Paul couldn't wait to die in Jerusalem at the hands of Rome. *"And now, behold, I go bound in spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I received of the Lord Jesus, to testify of the grace of God."* Acts 20:22-24. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:7.

Paul obtained "the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus" by laying his head on a block. By being a martyr, he was assured of the prize he sought: the first resurrection.