

“Doctrine no 5”

The Voice of the Sign

Brian Kocourek May 3, 2015

So far in our study of Doctrine, we have looked at three very most important points of focus concerning Doctrine, and they are **no. 1** There must be the ***One who reveals***. In other words the Doctrine of Christ is about Christ, it is not about peripheral things.

No. 2 There must be the ***one in whom or through whom we receive the doctrine***. In other words, the one in whom God makes known His revelation of Himself.

No. 3 there must be ***ones to whom the Doctrine is revealed***. A special kind of person, a chosen people.

This morning I would like to focus on one other thought concerning Doctrine, especially the Doctrine of Christ and what I want to show you is that there is always a build up to the doctrine. In other words, God never just sends a man with Doctrine. Teachers teach doctrine, and they may come and teach doctrine, but the Word of the Lord doesn't come to the teachers. It comes to and through God's Prophets. And God never sent a prophet to declare His doctrine without sending signs and wonders first to attract the people to the vessel he is used to bring forth His doctrine through.

If you recall in our sermon **Doctrine no 2 *The One in whom He reveals***, we showed you how that God promised in **Deuteronomy 13** and **18** that the one he chose to reveal His Word through would come with signs and wonders and with Thus Saith the Lord.

But man has not always accepted the Word of the Lord, or the teaching or Doctrine that is brought by the vessel of God's choosing. Even Jesus Christ, the son of God had a great deal of difficulty getting the people to believe the doctrine He came with. And he told them the doctrine was not his own, but the Father who had sent Him.

John 7:16 *Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*

Then we find Jesus in contention with the people in **John 10:32** over the doctrine he taught them. *"Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. (Believe me not what? He's saying, look, if God doesn't back up what I am telling you concerning the doctrine I teach, then you don't have to believe it.) 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."*

Now, Wednesday night we will cover this thought here in more detail, but for now, I want to focus on the order in which the doctrine always comes. And you will also notice that the people not only fussed with Jesus and then Paul, but they fussed with Moses as well. Now, they did not fuss concerning the signs and wonders, but they fussed with the teaching they brought, the doctrine they taught.

Now, we know that *God will do nothing lest he reveals it through his prophets first.* That is **Amos 3:7**. And in **Psalms 103:7** we read, *"He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel."*

Notice how the people were capable of seeing the acts of God, but Moses Knew God's ways. That's the doctrine. So then Moses had to teach the doctrine to the people, so they also might know God's ways.

Because God said, **Psalms 95:10** *Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and*

In fact God said in **Isaiah 55:8** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

So God used signs to attract the peoples attention as we see in **Numbers 14:11** *And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?*

And as brother Bosworth often said, *"God uses signs, wonders and healing to get the attention of the people to receive the Bread of Life. It's like the wrappings on a loaf of bread. You don't eat the wrappings, but the wrappings gets your attention to the bread."*

And in the Book of Numbers we see that Moses given two signs by God to get the peoples attention. Now, if the sign has one purpose and that is to get your attention so you can be taught, then the doctrine, or the teaching is much more important than the sign God uses to get your attention.

Exodus 4: 8 *And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.*

Brother Branham said in his sermon **Who Is This Melchisedec 65-0221E 160** *"the church has got it's last sign before the whole world's going to be destroyed."* And he also said, *"But then where's that Royal Seed of Abraham? Where is their sign,"* and he went on... *"the last sign before the Gentile world was destroyed by fire?"*

Now, in order to understand what he is talking about concerning this last sign to the Gentile world, we must first ask ourselves, *what is a sign.* And so we find our answer in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

SIGN: *from Latin signum meaning a: mark, a token, a sign, an image, a seal; something by which a thought or command can be expressed.*

Therefore, the sign is not the thing itself, but *the expression of a thought or message behind the sign* that we are to look for, and that expression of the sign is called “*the voice of the sign.*”

Brother Branham spoke about the importance of the voice behind the sign, and even preached a message less than a year after preaching the Seals called **The Voice of the Sign**, February 14, 1964.

From his sermon **Go Tell 60-0417M pp. 112** Brother Branham said, “*we can see signs and wonders, but we watch what voice the sign has.*”

And again from **Go Tell 60-0417M pp. 113** he said, “*Oh, hallelujah, the voice of the sign... God told Moses, "If they won't hear the voice of the first sign, then they'll hear the voice of the second sign." Not so much the sign, but the voice went with it.*

So we see that brother Branham placed the emphasis not on the sign, but on the message the sign pointed to. The voice of the sign then is more important than the actual sign itself, because after all, the voice behind the sign is what the very sign is given for. The voice is the very purpose for the sign in the first place.

In **Exodus 4:1** we read ¶*And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. 6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand [was] leprous as snow. 7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his [other] flesh. 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.*

So we see this scriptural term “*The Voice of the Sign*” is not some term that Brother Branham just made up, but rather it is something that God Himself is the author of. Therefore we are examining in this study the scriptural principle of “*the Voice of the Sign*” and what it means to the Elect in their day.

From his sermon, **Queen of Sheba 60-0710 E-32** brother Branham said, “*Many people are following signs. It isn't the sign; it's the voice that goes with the sign. Moses, when he was given two signs, God told him, "If they won't hear the voice of the first sign, then they will hear the voice of the second sign." Each sign is just a sign. Man has gifts and things, but watch what's behind it. Satan can impersonate any thing almost; he is a impersonator, and he can impersonate. But watch the kind of a voice that it is. What does it do? The voice of the sign.*”

Notice brother Branham is letting us know that the emphasis is not to be placed on the sign itself, but rather the Voice behind that sign, that is what is important to watch.

From his sermon called **Voice of the Sign 64-0214 45** brother Branham said, *“Now, we find out here **the burning bush was a sign. It was given to attract the attention of Moses. Now, that's what God gives a sign for, is to attract the attention of the people. That's what a sign is for: to attract attention. And when we go down through the Scripture here, as we teach it now for a few minutes, and find out if that isn't so, that He gives these signs to attract attention. And then, when He gets the attention of the people, then the voice of the sign begins to speak. Jesus healed the sick to attract attention. See? Then, when He begin to preach... See, always it attracts attention. 47 The burning bush was given to Moses to attract the runaway prophet's attention, and he turned aside to see what it was. Then the sign gave a voice. The sign itself gave a voice. Now, these voices and signs are to alert the people of God's Word is just about ready to be vindicated. Always the sign is to attract the attention of people.***

Then the emphasis is not and should never be on the sign itself, because **the sign is only to attract the attention**. But once the attention has been attracted, **“The Voice of the Sign”** takes over. Then what about the **Epiphanaea** that took place on the Ohio River in 1933. The Light came down, it was a sign, but notice then a Voice Followed that sign.

The sign pointed the people to a Message. And what about the Cloud over Flagstaff Arizona? The Sign came forth and then a Message, a Shout, **“The Voice of the Sign!”** And the Shout of the King came into the camp. Always God sends a sign first, then the Voice. That's the way God works.

What good did the Parousia of Christ do for those who did not know He is here? So God gave us a sign to attract the attention of the people to His Parousia. That was His Eiphany, or Epiphanaea. It means a shining forth. An illumination and the purpose of the illumination, the Light, the Pillar of Fire coming down, was to get the attention of the people. Why, Because the sign has a Voice.

Therefore, every sign has a voice behind it, because the purpose of a sign is two fold.

No. 1) It is to get the attention of the people.

No. 2) Once the attention is held, then there is a voice which is a Message that the sign declares. That's the whole purpose of the sign.

Let's look at a **"stop-sign"** for an example. It is shaped a certain way so that it will stand out as different from all other signs. We see its coloring. It is Red with a white outside stripe around its perimeter, so when you see it you are attracted to it. And notice it has a Voice, which is a message, and that message is for you to **"STOP"**.

We have many signs on the road. Signs to yield, signs to watch for train crossings, or deer crossings, or signs to be cautious, or road condition signs like slippery when wet, or signs telling you how far to a certain place, or speed signs or exit signs. I have listed many signs we see every day on our highways, and if you'll notice each one has a message, or a voice declaring a certain thought that it wants to express.

So we should be able to recognize that every sign has a voice, and the purpose of the sign is to get you to listen to that voice.

Brother Branham preached the message **Voice Of The Sign** several times. In the one preached **64-0214 pp 55** he was talking about Moses being attracted to the sign of the burning bush, and he said, *"There, watch real close now. He is going to speak, so He has to attract the attention by a sign. And the sign's voice is what He's going to say. His Word... His promised Word's going to be vindicated now. See? "I made a promise that I would take them out by a strong hand, I'd show My power in that land" and whatever He's going to do. Now, He made the promise to Abraham. Here He is ready to do it, so He gives a sign, a Pillar of Fire laying back in a burning bush. And He tells Moses, "Now, you're going to be My mouthpiece. Go on down there and I'll be with you." And when he got down there, then the promised Word that He had promised was vindicated. That was the voice of the sign. You get it now? Notice, "I have heard their groans. I remember My promise."*

57 God never changes. He always does it in the same way. The coming of a prophet is a sign that God is ready to speak. Now, search the Scriptures. See? The Bible says, God said Himself He did nothing until He revealed it to His prophets. That's right. He does it through them, because it comes to them; that's His servants, you know. All right. The coming of a prophet is a sign that's overlooked by the people every time. They overlook it. They never get it somehow, 'less it's those who got their eyes open to see it. Those who are elected to see it, does see it. But the coming of a prophet was the sign that God is ready to speak, 'cause if God ain't going to speak, the prophet wouldn't be on earth. Now, remember that. He wouldn't be on earth, unless God was ready to speak. And that's the way He speaks is through those channels. The unchanging God never did do it any other way.

In 1982 Brother Vayle held a convention in Columbus, Ohio and he preached a Message showing the same thing. He said *"no prophet, no God, no God, no Prophet"*. And pointed out that when there is a prophet on the scene it is because God is on the scene. Why? Because a prophet is a sign, and God is the Voice behind that sign.

59 Notice. This is always God's way of making His voice known to His people. He sends His prophet and gives a sign, and then takes His voice that's been spoken before on His Word, and vindicates it by this man; and they know that it's His voice, because it's a promised Word of the day. Oh, if people could only see that. If they could only stop just a moment and realize that... You see, there's no way to make them believe it. There's not a way a man... God himself can't do it, make the people believe it. They've got to believe it. And if there's nothing there to believe with, how can they believe? See? No matter what you do... The Bible said, "Though He had done so many miracles, yet they could not believe," because Isaiah foresaw it, and said, "They got ears and they can't hear, eyes and can't see." And yet He was perfectly the Messiah, done exactly what the Messiah said. And they said, "This man just breaks up churches, and he... We don't know from whence he comes." See? Isn't that strange, that they would do that? But the Bible said they would do it.

61 *And the Bible also said in this day they'd do the same thing: "Heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than of God, false accusers, incontinent, despisers of those that are good; having a form of godliness, but would deny the vindicated Word, the power thereof, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and so forth. From such turn away. For this is the kind that organizes women's societies, and goes house-to-house, and leads silly women, lade away with divers lusts, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." See? Now, that's prophesied. And that's got to come to pass because it's THUS SAITH THE LORD. Notice. "But their folly would be showed up as Jambres and Jannes in the last days."*

62 *Now, always making known His voice to His people by His prophet sign... Now, I'm talking about Moses. That's where I'm banking back, and then see where we're at. God's Word is manifested by the voice of the sign. Now, the sign that is promised for the day is done before the people. And then the written Scripture comes forth is the voice of that sign. **If it doesn't give a Scriptural voice, then stay away from it.** See? It's not God, 'cause God can't promise this for today, and say, "Well, this is it." See? God cannot do that. God cannot promise something for one day and say, "No, no. It won't do that. That was for another day." What He promises, He must stay with it. And the real Scriptural sign is the Scriptural voice.*

Voice of The Sign 64-0214 89 *Notice, **the Pillar of Fire sign, and then the voice of the sign spoke.** See? The Pillar... Sign of the voice was there, ready to speak. **The sign only showed that the voice was ready to speak.** Get the idea? **The sign shows God's voice is ready to speak.***

Now, notice this is the case every time the Pillar of Fire came. First it was scene in a bush by Moses, and then when Moses was attracted to it, he heard the Voice of the sign and it was the voice of God, who is the Word. The same with Paul. He saw the Pillar of Fire and then he heard the Voice of the Sign speak unto him. The same in this day when the Pillar of Fire came down on the Ohio River and then the Voice of the Sign was heard.

Voice of The Sign 64-0214 154 *Now, notice, Jesus' first ministry... Oh, they all--everybody wanted Him in their church. Oh, my. He's a great Fellow. Sure, He went in all the synagogues, read the scrolls, and set down. Everybody, "Young rabbi..." **But one day He begin to talk to them in another way. The voice of the sign begin to speak. And when the voice of the sign begin to speak, nobody wanted Him.** One of them said, "This man's crazy. He's a cannibal, trying to make cannibal out of all of us." See? He never explained it. Let them go.*

Notice here that Brother Branham is telling us something else about this Voice of the Sign. He is telling us that not everyone can receive it. It is not for everyone. And so it must be rejected by those who do not want the voice of the sign.

Voice of The Sign 64-0321E E-33 *Notice, sign. What does a sign do? **The sign is to attract the attention, and get the elected ready and out of the way before judgment strikes.** That's what Noah did, got the elected ready. The rest of them... And what does it do? **The sign and the voice of the sign condemns the unbeliever and gets him ready for judgment. It gets the elected ready for the escape.** That's what sign is. That's what signs*

are given for, for the coming judgment. E-34 To the elected, they see it, like the little woman with a pure heart in a defiled body, and the Pharisee with a pure body and a defiled heart. It condemned one and saved the other one. And the very judgment that saved Moses, condemned the world, his preaching. It gets the elected ready. What's the elected ready for? When they see a God sent sign, they look back in the Scripture and see if that's supposed to be there. "Yeah, here it is. What is it? Pending judgment." **Then the elected listens to the voice. But the unelected ignores and says, "Nonsense. Go on. We'll take the same old school."** That's the way they did in the days of Luther. That's the way they did in the days of Wesley. That's the way they do now, way they've always done. **But it is a sign, and it has a voice that follows the sign. And the voice is identified as a Scriptural voice. Now, don't forget that.** I keep that going in, because I may never see you again. I wished I had a way that I could come down here somewhere, and get all my brethren when they had no revivals going on, put a tent up, and just set day after day, and teach it till it really soaked in. But He wouldn't permit that, I don't think. See, we're too close to the end.

Now, this is important that we see here what brother Branham is saying. He tells us that all will see the sign, but only the elected will be open to the voice of that sign. And because they believe the Voice of the Sign it is salvation to them, but those who turn it down, judgment is all that is left for them. Therefore, the Voice of the Sign is for our benefit to rescue us and get us ready for deliverance. That's what it was for in Moses day, and that's what it was for in Paul's day. Then if God does not change, why do we think it would be any different in our day when the same Pillar of Fire has come with the same sign as He did with Moses and Paul.

God Who is Rich in Mercy 65-0119 191 Moses was given two signs, and each sign had a voice. That's right. **I preached on it here sometime ago, somewhere, on "The Voice Of The Sign."** It must have a Voice of the sign. It's a changing. Always it's that way. **If it isn't, then it didn't come from God. If a man comes out with an odd peculiar ministry, that's found in the Bible to be the Truth, and that man stays right in that same old denominational doctrine, forget it. Nothing to it. God don't do a thing like that.** That thing, that's rotten manna that's got termites in it, or wiggle tails, or whatever you want to call it, from forty, fifty years ago, still trying to eat that old manna that fell way back years ago. And the children of Israel on their journey, new manna fell every night. That's right, you couldn't keep it over. We don't live over some other age gone by. We're eating new Manna, fresh Manna out of heaven, in our journey as we go on.

Then why do men keep preaching the same old denominational doctrines and claim to believe the sign. They see the prophet, so they see the sign, but why do they keep preaching the same old watered down doctrine that they held back in Pentecost?

The Token 64-0308 77 He displayed His sign as Messiah, and so forth. And they, many of them, said, "Yes, I could go for that." Well, now, if that was a sign, **there's got to be a voice of that sign. What was the voice behind it? When He begin to teach His doctrine and call them a bunch of snakes in the grass, He wasn't popular from then on (See?) when the voice came with the sign. The sign went first.**

Notice what Brother Branham just said here. **The voice behind the sign is the doctrine.** But they do not want the doctrine, and if they refuse the doctrine then they are refusing to accept the Voice of the sign. **They claim they want the Word of God but they do not want God's doctrine.**

A certain big name minister in this message was talking to a Joe Keller years ago and he said, "*why don't you Lee Vayle guys believe in doing mission work*", and the young man replied, "*well, brother Brian Kocourek does, and we support what he is doing, what about that?*" And the big shot said, "*Oh he doesn't go to teach the Message, he only goes to teach Doctrine.*". And the Young man told me, he said, "*I thought to myself, What is the message if it isn't the doctrine? But you can't argue with people who do not believe the voice of the sign.*"

Lean not unto Thy own Understanding 65-0120 190 *Lean not to your own understanding. And after the sign went forth, and the Voice following, and the churches begin to turn me down and close their doors upon doctrine, that any of them is daresn't to stand before me to say it's right or wrong. I challenge any of them. Uh-huh. Not to be smart, but I know where I'm at. See? That's right. What did they do? What did they do? They shut every door. "Now, what are you going to do?"*

Notice again that brother Branham tells us that the church turned down the voice which is the doctrine.

Meanest Man in Town 62-0127 E-21 *Oh, I would've loved to have been there to listen to that. No doubt, I believe that every person here would've longed to be there, to hear what He had to say, listen to His doctrine, what His doctrine was, how He expressed Himself, and what type of a voice He had; and look upon His face and to see Him performing His works, and discerning the thoughts of the people, and telling them of different things and diseases they had, and pronouncing them healed. I would've loved to have been there. Oh, my. I would like to have seen that.*

You know, these churches claim to believe the Word of God, yet they turn down the doctrine which is the voice of the Sign. Did you know what the definition of the word Logos is? It is the word that is used in **John 1:1 in the Beginning was the WORD**, (the Logos) *and the Word*, (the Logos) *was with God and the Word*, (the Logos) *was God*.

Now, the word logos means -- *Word or speech, a word uttered by a living voice, which embodies a conception or idea* It also means *1b) a decree, a mandate an order -- what is declared, a thought, declaration, aphorism, a weighty saying, a dictum, a maxim, and it also means 1c) discourse – instruction, Doctrine, and Teaching.*

Therefore, we can say of **John 1:1** *"In the beginning was the Doctrine and the Doctrine was with God and the Doctrine was God."*

And this same John wrote also in **1 John 1:1** *¶That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Doctrine of life; 2 For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,*

that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

That is why God said, **Deuteronomy 32:1** ¶ *Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:* Because the rain gives life to the herbs of the field.

Proverbs 16:15 *In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain.*

377-2 Resume of the Ages - Church age Book cpt.10 *“the latter rain can come only after the former rain which is the spring or TEACHING rain. The latter rain, then, is the HARVEST rain.”* Therefore you had to have the Prophet of God come with teaching, and then another rain would follow, with is the Harvest rain. And since the Teaching rain and Harvest rain are both rain, and God said His Doctrine is as the Rain, then both must be the Doctrine going forth. One to teach and the other for harvest purposes. Notice he said, **“When that last elect Seed is in AND child-trained, the we will go.”**

Hebrews 6:1 ¶ *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit. 4 For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briars [is] rejected, and [is] nigh unto cursing; whose end [is] to be burned.*

Abraham's Grace Covenant 61-0317 E-11 *You're either a believer or not a believer. Now, listen to Scripture. The man or woman that comes to a fact of the Bible, comes up against the Scriptural doctrine... Ministers, whoever you are, I say this with Godly love, and you see it, and know it is the truth, and turn away from it, "there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, but a fearful looking for the judgment, the fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries.*

Jude 1:12 *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water (No rain, no doctrine), carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit (and remember the fruit is the teaching of the season, therefore these are they without a teaching of the season, because they have no rain, no doctrine), twice dead, plucked up by the roots; 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*