

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 24, APRIL 2000

"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of the law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Thank you for your response to Pathway 2000, our way of hearing from you. Some of the comments we received are on page three. Your contacting us enables us to know which stations are reaching you, which is important for us as we chart our pathway for the year 2000. We hope our broadcast initiates dialogue between us and you that results in the building up of the Body of Christ.

Life-study of Revelation has begun, and we hope you are tuned in. According to Webster's dictionary, the word *revelation* means "an act of revealing or communicating divine truth." We can assure you that every *Life-study of Revelation* radio program will reveal and communicate the divine truth in this mysterious book of Revelation. Please don't miss these excellent broadcasts.

On page two, the footnote from Revelation 1:20 reveals the deep meaning of the seven golden lampstands, representing the church shining in the dark night of this age, both locally and universally. The golden lampstand is one of the most meaningful signs used by the Lord throughout the Bible, so we hope you will pay particular attention to it in this month's issue of *The Hearing of Faith*. We also trust that "The Path of Life" articles are helping you in your practical daily experience of Christ. May you be "in spirit on the Lord's Day," as John was in Revelation 1:10, to hear the Lord's speaking in these days!

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

WACO, TX

KBBW 1010 AM
4:00 P.M. MON-FRI

KANSAS CITY, MO

KKLO 1410 AM
10:00 A.M. MON-FRI

CHANGE OF TIME:

MODESTO/STOCKTON/
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

KCBC 770 AM
6:00 P.M. MON-FRI
1:30 P.M. SUNDAY

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS?

The golden lampstand is an important symbol in the Bible. It is mentioned in Exodus 25, 1 Kings 7, Zechariah 4, and Revelation 1. In Exodus only one lampstand was placed in the tabernacle to give light in the Holy Place. This unique lampstand symbolizes Christ as the embodiment and expression of the Triune God. The substance of the lampstand was pure gold, which symbolizes God the Father in His divine nature. This gold was beaten into the form of a lampstand, which symbolizes God the Son, who is the embodiment of God the Father (John 14:9-11a; Col. 1:15; 2:9). The seven shining lamps symbolize God the Spirit as the seven Spirits of God (Rev. 4:5; 5:6) for the expression of the Father in the Son. Thus, the three attributes of the lampstand—its substance, its shape, and its shining expression—symbolize the three of the Divine Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

The description in Exodus 25 portrays the lampstand as a living, growing tree. The lampstand had a central shaft with three branches on each of its two sides. At the intersection of each pair of branches with the shaft there was a calyx (the leafy green part of a flower). Furthermore, along the

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GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS

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length of the shaft and along each branch there were cups made like almond blossoms, with calyxes and blossoming buds. This picture gives the impression that the shaft grows upward and the branches grow out of the shaft. Since the lampstand is a portrait of the Triune God, who is embodied in Christ, the life in the lampstand must be the divine life, the eternal life, the life of God, which is in Christ (John 1:4; 1 John 5:11-12) and even is Christ Himself (John 14:6). The lampstand had seven lamps, one at the end of the central shaft and one at the end of each of the six branches. The shining of the seven lamps signifies the testimony, the expression, of the Triune God, which results from the growth of the divine life. The function of the lampstand is to express the Triune God by shining out the divine light of life.

At the end of the Bible, in Revelation 1, there are seven golden lampstands. As indicated in verse 20, the seven lampstands symbolize seven local churches. According to verse 11 these seven churches were in seven cities, respectively, one local church in each city. This picture shows that each local church is a lampstand, just as Christ is. The lampstand in the Old Testament was only one, whereas the lampstands in the New Testament are many. The seven lampstands in Revelation 1 are the multiplication of the one lampstand in Exodus 25. This signifies that the local churches are the reproductions of Christ. They and Christ are the same in nature (gold), in form (a stand), and in function (shining). Because of this, the lampstands are also identical to one another; there is no way to distinguish one from the other. As portrayed in the picture of the lampstand, in order for the local churches to be the reproductions of Christ, the believers in the churches need to experience Christ as their life and allow Christ to grow within them. As Christ grows in His believers, He transforms them inwardly into His image, His form (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29). Ultimately, this growth and transformation through the divine life of Christ in His believers causes the local churches to shine forth the divine light, both individually in their respective localities and collectively in the universe, as the testimony of Jesus.

For further reading on this subject, please see The Ultimate Significance of the Golden Lampstand and The Church, the Reprint of the Spirit, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

FOOTNOTES FROM

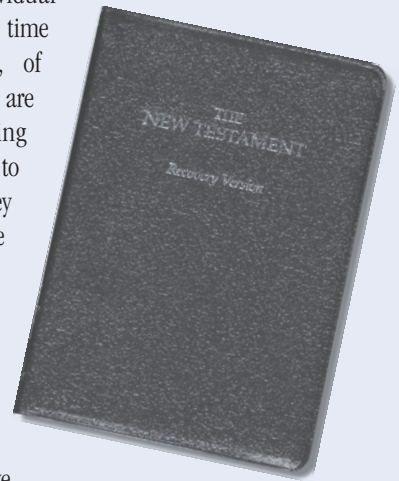
Revelation CHAPTER ONE

Revelation 1:20—The ¹mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

¹When John saw the seven stars upon the right hand of Christ and the seven golden lampstands in the midst of which was Christ, it was a mystery to him. He did not realize the significance of the seven heavenly stars and the seven golden lampstands. Hence, the Lord unveiled the mystery to him, saying that “the seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.” The significance of this not only was a mystery to John but also is a mystery to believers today. All believers need the unveiling of this mystery that they may see the churches and their messengers.

The churches, signified by the seven golden lampstands, are the testimony of Jesus (v. 2, 9) in the divine nature, shining in the dark night locally yet collectively. The churches should be of the divine nature—golden. They should be the stands, even the lampstands, that bear the lamp with the oil (Christ as the life-giving Spirit) and shine in the darkness individually and collectively. They are individual lampstands locally, yet at the same time they are a group, a collection, of lampstands universally. They not only are shining locally but also are bearing universally the same testimony both to the localities and to the universe. They are of the same nature and in the same shape. They bear the same lamp for the same purpose and are fully identified with one another, not having any individual distinctiveness. The differences among the seven churches recorded in chs. 2 and 3 are all of a negative nature, not a positive one. Negatively, in their failures, the churches are different and separate from one another; but positively, in their nature, shape, and purpose, they are absolutely identical and are connected to one another.

It is easy for believers to see the universal church, but it is difficult for them to see the churches. The revelation of the local churches is the Lord's ultimate unveiling concerning the church, and it is recorded in the last book of the divine Word. To fully know the church, believers must follow the Lord from the Gospels through the Epistles to the book of Revelation until they are enabled to see the local churches as unveiled here. In Revelation the first vision is concerning the churches. The churches with Christ as their one center are the focus in the divine administration for the accomplishing of God's eternal purpose.



The verse and footnote above are from the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.