

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9, JANUARY 1999

"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

In THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry Radio
- 1 What Is the New Jerusalem? Part 1
- 2 Hymn
- 3 Letters from Listeners
- 3 Campaign '99 Announcement
- 4 The Path of Life—Pray-Reading the Word, Part 1

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

NASHVILLE, TN
WNQM 1300 AM
7:30 A.M. SATURDAY
11:00 A.M. SATURDAY

LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE
CAN BE HEARD ON
MORE THAN EIGHTY
RADIO STATIONS IN
CHINESE AND SPANISH.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

CHINESE: (888) 388-9958
SPANISH: (800) 810-1149

Dear Listeners,

With this issue of *The Hearing of Faith* we usher in a new year. As we begin this year, we would like you to consider the enjoyment of Christ revealed in Colossians 2:16-17: "Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath, which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ." Eating and drinking is a daily matter; the Sabbath is a weekly matter; a new moon is a monthly matter; and feasts are a yearly matter. Whether daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly, we can enjoy Christ, since the body, or reality, of all these matters is Christ Himself. With a new year we have Christ as our new beginning and as our feast for our enjoyment throughout the year. Christ is our new beginning not only each year, but each month, each week, and even each day. In Christ we are full of new beginnings! May you enjoy Christ in many ways as He becomes new to you through all the situations and environments of this upcoming year.

Many of you participated last year in Campaign 98, which we conducted in January. During that time we offered a free book to everyone who called us. Our purpose was to evaluate the stations we broadcast on to find out how many people we are reaching, beyond our existing database of names. This helps us in our stewardship of what the Lord has given us for this work. We will conduct Campaign 99 this year from January 18 through January 31. We hope to hear from new listeners and those who have not yet had an opportunity to call us. We will reward their effort by sending each a free book. Our aim is not to appeal for money; we are sincerely trying to find out to what extent our message is being heard and appreciated. Could you tell a friend to tune in and call us during those two weeks so that they can become one of our new listeners and receive our gift for calling?

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE NEW JERUSALEM? PART 1

In this two-part article, we will cover a great matter mentioned in the Bible, the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is profoundly rich in significance. In Part 1 we explore the Father's house, His dwelling place, as one aspect of the New Jerusalem.

Paul tells us that the church is the house of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15) and that corporately the believers are the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16), and Peter says that the believers in Christ are living stones of this spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). In John 14:2 the Lord said, "In My Father's house are

(continued on page 2)

NEW JERUSALEM

(continued from page 1)

many abodes." *Abodes* is the correct translation in John 14:2. The same word is used in the singular in verse 23 where the Lord said that He and the Father would make an abode with the one who loved Him. In the Father's house, the Body of Christ, there are many abodes, many dwelling places. Each member of the Body of Christ is an abode, a dwelling place, of God. God dwells in each of us who have received Him in Christ.

The Lord Jesus went on to say, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be. And where I am going you know the way. . . I am the way. . . no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:2-6). What did the Lord mean when He said that He was going to prepare a place for the disciples, so that where He was, they also could be? The Lord was about to go to prepare a place in God the Father through His death and resurrection. He is the way to God the Father; He is in the Father (vv. 10-11); and His desire is that we would be in the Father also (17:21). Through His death and resurrection we have been brought into the Father God. For this reason, Paul addressed the church of the Thessalonians as being "in God the Father" (1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1).

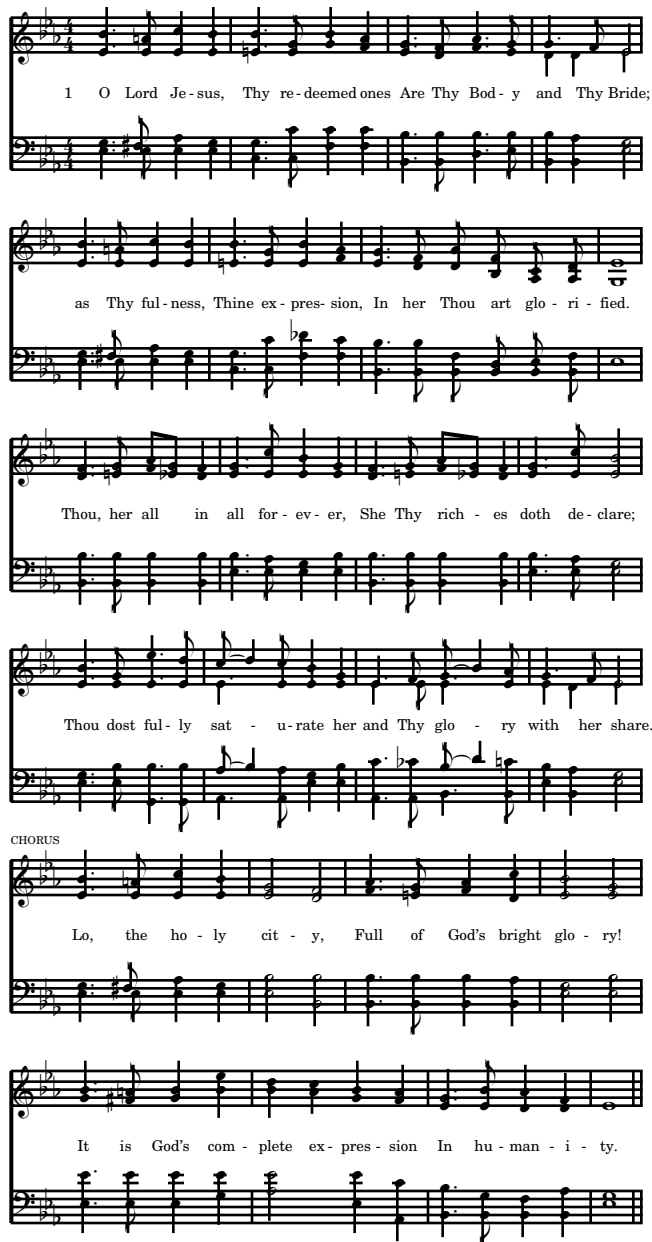
For more than nineteen centuries the Lord has been building up the church as the Body of Christ, which is God's spiritual house. When this spiritual house is fully built up through the believers' growth and transformation in the divine life, the built-up Body of Christ will become Christ's bride. When the bride is prepared, Christ the Bridegroom will return. This bride will be the wife of the Lamb, the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:2 says that the New Jerusalem is "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband," and verse 9 says that this holy city is "the bride, the wife of the Lamb." The New Jerusalem is not a literal city, but a great figure, signifying the totality of all God's chosen and redeemed people throughout the ages who have been transformed and built up in the divine life to be His wife for eternity.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of John*; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, Messages 254-264; and *The Vision of God's Building*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The following is one of several hymns written by Witness Lee. The enlightening and inspiring words of this hymn contain much truth concerning the New Jerusalem.

(Hymns #976, published by Living Stream Ministry)

8. 7. 8. 7. D. with chorus.



God with man completely blended,
Mystery of godliness,
God in glory, full, resplendent,
Man, His dwelling, doth express.
'Tis a vessel universal
All God's fulness to express;
All His beauty manifesting,
Mingled with His holiness.

'Tis a living composition
Of the saints He hath transformed;
As the pearls and stones most precious,
To His image they're conformed.
From the throne of God, its center,
Flows the living water free;
Christ the tree of life doth flourish,
Bearing fruit abundantly.

'Tis th' eternal golden lampstand,
Holding Christ, the lamp of light;
God in Christ the light of glory
In the Spirit shineth bright!
'Tis the ultimate expression—
Man in God and God in man;
'Tis their mutual habitation,
Goal of God's eternal plan.