

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 10, FEBRUARY 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

T H I S

I S S U E

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry Radio
- 1 What Is the New Jerusalem? Part 2
- 2 Highlights from *Life-Study of Exodus*
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life-Pray-Reading the Word, Part 2

The central thought of Exodus is that Christ is the redemption, salvation, and supply of God's people and the means for them to worship and serve God so that in Him they may be built up with God together for them and God to meet, communicate, and dwell mutually.

*Life-study of Exodus,
Message One, p. 11*

Dear Listeners,

Thank you for your participation in Campaign 99! We appreciate how many of you encouraged your friends to listen and call in. It is important for us to know that we are being heard, and the many calls we received help us to evaluate the stations we are on.

On February 1 we began *Life-study of Exodus*. Witness Lee devoted one hundred and eighty-five messages to *Life-study of Exodus*, more than to any other book of the Bible. Because *Life-study of Exodus* is so lengthy, we will take a break in the middle of May. At that time, we will jump to the New Testament to broadcast *Life-study of Galatians*. We will return to Exodus at the end of July and continue until its completion near the end of 1999.

So for Living Stream Ministry Radio, 1999 will mostly be a year of Exodus. We hope you will join us for this classic journey, and we pray that the word concerning the exodus of God's people from Egypt will become experiential to every one of you. We all need to daily experience leaving this world and entering God's purpose as the children of Israel did, especially since the New Testament tells us that "these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come." (1 Cor. 10:11). We promise you there will be fresh insights into God's Word with every program you listen to.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE NEW JERUSALEM? PART 2

The key to understanding the meaning of the New Jerusalem is in Revelation 1:1, which says that the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ, and that this revelation was made known to John by signs. This word *signs* is critical. Signs are symbols with spiritual significance. All the major items of revelation in the book of Revelation are signs, symbols. They are not to be taken literally. For instance, the lampstands in Revelation 2 and 3 are symbols, not actual lampstands, signifying the seven churches in Asia. In Revelation 1:20, the seven stars are not seven literal stars, but symbols signifying the messengers of the churches, those who bear the spiritual responsibility in the churches. In Revelation 5:6 we see Christ is the Lamb of God, but He is not a literal lamb with four legs and a tail. His being the Lamb is a symbol with spiritual significance.

The ultimate sign in the book of Revelation is the New Jerusalem, a symbol with tremendous spiritual significance as the ultimate conclusion of the entire Bible. The New Jerusalem is not a

(continued on page 2)

NEW JERUSALEM

(continued from page 1)

material, lifeless city. The New Jerusalem signifies a great, wonderful person. Who is this person? Revelation 21:2 says, "And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Verse 9 also refers to the New Jerusalem as the bride, the wife of the Lamb. Thus, the New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ, the wife of Christ. She is composed of all God's redeemed people throughout the ages, who corporately become Christ's wife, so that they can be in a marriage union with Him as their Husband for eternity. This is the ultimate consummation of the divine romance in the Bible. God always wanted to be a husband to His people, and He likened His people to His wife. The Bible opens in Genesis with a husband and a wife, Adam and Eve (typifying Christ and the church—Eph. 5:31-32), and it ends in Revelation with Christ the Husband, and the holy city as the bride of Christ, the wife of Christ.

We also see in Revelation that the New Jerusalem is the mutual dwelling place of God and His redeemed people. On the one hand, we, as God's redeemed people, are the tabernacle for God to dwell in (Rev. 21:3). On the other hand, God is the temple for us to dwell in. When John looked at the New Jerusalem, he said, "I saw no temple in it, the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple" (Rev. 21:22). The New Jerusalem is a mutual abode where the Triune God dwells in us as the tabernacle, and we dwell in Him as the temple. The New Jerusalem as the wife of Christ is the tabernacle for God as the Husband to dwell in, and God as the Husband is the temple for the wife as the tabernacle to dwell in. Therefore, the New Jerusalem is a wonderful corporate person. This holy city is the Triune God dwelling in His redeemed people, and His redeemed people dwelling in Him in a marvelous marriage union, which will express the Triune God in all His riches for His glory forever and ever.

For further reading on this subject, please see *God's New Testament Economy*; *Life-study of Revelation*; and *The Application of the Interpretation of the New Jerusalem to the Seeking Believers*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS

On February 1 we began broadcasting Life-study of Exodus. In Exodus 4 there are three signs of one who is called by God: Moses' rod becoming a serpent, Moses' hand turning leprous, and the water of the Nile turning to blood. The following highlight is compiled from Message Eight entitled "The Three Signs," pp. 86-88, 90, and 92-95.

The serpent, leprosy, and blood are related respectively to Satan, to sin in the flesh, and to the death brought in by the world. Those who have been called by God must have not only the objective sign of the burning thorn-bush, but the subjective signs of the serpent, leprosy, and the blood. As called ones, we need some subjective experiences, some subjective evidences, to substantiate to others that we have truly been called by God and sent by Him. These evidences are the ability to deal with the devil, the ability to deal with the sinful flesh, and the ability to deal with the death brought in by the world.

The Bible reveals that the serpent always tries to hide himself in something, behind something, or under something. The rod Moses relied on was actually the serpent, Satan. In the eyes of Moses, the rod was simply a rod that he could lean upon, but in the eyes of God, it was the serpent, whose aim is to usurp man. Anything we rely upon is a rod. Today Satan is usurping all of mankind by concealing himself within the rods that people rely upon. One must know how to cast that hiding place to the ground, and then he must know how to deal with that situation by the "tail." To deal with [situations] by grace is to take them by the "tail."

The rod upon which we rely is a serpent, but the flesh is the embodiment of leprosy. We need to know that in our flesh we are lepers. In our flesh there is nothing good, only leprosy. To know the flesh in such a subjective way is an evidence that the Lord has called us and sent us. As the called ones and sent ones, we must bear the sign which indicates that nothing good dwells in our flesh. We are all a composition of leprosy, the embodiment of sin, rottenness, corruption, and uncleanness. If you do not believe this about your flesh, I suggest that in the silence of the night, when you are all alone, you touch your conscience and listen to what it says about you. It will reveal that your flesh also is nothing but leprosy.

What is produced by the water of the Nile is apparently supply and enjoyment. But in the eyes of God, it is nothing but death. All the supply, enjoyment, and entertainment of the world are death. A called one must know what the world is. To the people of the world, the water of the Nile is wonderful, but to us it is blood. God's called ones must be able to tell His people not to stay in Egypt to drink the water of the Nile, but to go out of Egypt into the wilderness to drink the water from the cleft rock.

According to the New Testament, Satan is against Christ (1 John 3:8); the flesh is against the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:17); and the world is against the Father (1 John 2:15). In one whom God has called, Satan, the flesh, and the world have lost their ground.

ISAIAH

The *Life-study of Isaiah* broadcasts are now available on cassette tapes for purchase. The entire set of forty-seven programs is \$48.00 plus postage and tax where applicable.

Call (888) 543-3788 to order.

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses are subject to editing for the sake of space, content, and clarity.

Thank you for opening to us the book of Isaiah through your radio program. We are so blessed to hear all the revelations of Christ in this book. I am beginning to understand it even if it sounds so new and different. Please send me the three volumes of the Life-study of Isaiah at your convenience. Thank you again and may our Lord continue to bless more and more your radio ministry all over this country and across the whole earth. Amen.

P.V., Austin, TX

I hadn't noticed how beautifully written Isaiah is. It has helped me tie the Old Testament with the New. The two are connected in part by this book. Just hearing Witness Lee's portion gives me so much insight and opens the Scripture to interpretation. It is so valuable to enter the joy of the Lord on this program.

B.H., Santa Ana, CA

I have been praying, "Lord, I need more of You." You hear so many messages and you begin to be confused. But this one, the Life-study radio program, has given me a stronger hunger, a desire to learn more, and a conviction of my life.

I realized the difference between the conviction and the condemnation and the goodness of our Lord through listening to Witness Lee. I'm working, and it just happens that during my little break I try to listen. It has filled me so much. It has taught me quite a bit. Witness Lee made me understand something. In fact, I


JUST HEARING
WITNESS LEE'S PORTION
GIVES ME SO MUCH INSIGHT
AND OPENS THE SCRIPTURE
TO INTERPRETATION.


started reading Isaiah from the beginning. I just read the first three chapters last night. It's encouraging me to read. I thank you so much.

P.P., San Antonio, TX

I heard this morning's message by Witness Lee on KSEL radio. I want to get a copy of that message and anything else you can send me. I really liked the message. This is the first time I heard him on KSEL. Also, you say that there are some people in this area that support the radio

program of Witness Lee. I want you to put me in contact with one of these people because I am looking for a church.

R.M., Portales, NM

I started hearing the radio program and I thought, wow! I started being called into this. This is what God has planned for me all my life, to be built up in Him. The church has gotten so worldly in so many ways. This is completely different. What He is also doing is giving me a sense for my own life and convicting me. What a good work! I am so blessed by this ministry.

We are His Body. It is so good that I am seeing these things. It's really blessing me. I was attracted by this ministry through the radio program. Witness Lee was really a man of God for God to give him all this revelation. This man is so full of the word that he was like Christ to me, feeding me on the radio. I want you to know that I was encouraged by the radio program and then drawn into the Body. It is just wonderful. Thank you and may God bless you.

H.B., Beaverton, OR

THE *Path* OF *Life*

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of life as revealed in God's Word. May the Lord show us "the path of life" (Psa. 16:11) that we may have a daily living of enjoying, experiencing, and gaining Christ.

PRAY-READING THE WORD PART 2

THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S WORD

What is the substance, the essence, of God's Word? The answer is found in 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed. . . ." The King James Version says "given by inspiration of God," but the meaning in the original language is *God-breathed*. All Scripture is God's breath. We know that God is Spirit (John 4:24); the Spirit is God's essence and nature. God is Spirit (just as a table is wood). Since the Word is the breath of God, and God is Spirit, whatever is breathed out of God must be Spirit! So the essence or nature of the Word of God is Spirit. It is not just a thought, revelation, teaching or doctrine, but Spirit. The Spirit is the very substance of the Word of God. Now we see why the Lord Jesus told us that the words which He spoke are *spirit* and life (John 6:63). A revelation, thought, or teaching could never be life, but because the Word is Spirit, it is life. The nature of this book is the very essence of God Himself. Whenever we deal with this book, we must realize that we are touching God and dealing with Him!

TAKING IN THE WORD BY PRAYER

. . . We must now see the proper way to come to the Word. What is it? We must look at the Word of God as recorded in Ephesians 6:17-18: "Receive. . . the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God." It is the Spirit that is the Word of God. Then verse 18 continues: "By means of all prayer and petition." The verses then together are: "Receive. . . the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, by means of all prayer and petition." In what way are we to take the Word of God according to this passage? By means of all prayer and petition. This is what we call *pray-reading!* Again, we must repeat—the Word of God must be taken by means of all prayer.

THE HEARING OF FAITH

is a publication of Living Stream Ministry. All subscriptions are free. In addition to portions of ministry, this newsletter features broadcast updates and other items of interest. We hope that this newsletter will not only inform you of current news but will also nourish and refresh your spirit. Please be sure to read our reply card and feel free to use it to make comments or ask questions.

Living Stream Ministry
P.O. Box 2121
Anaheim, CA 92814
Phone: (714) 518-3366
Fax: (714) 518-3377
Email: radio@lsm.org
Web site: www.lsm.org/radio

According to the revelation of the Scripture, we believe that any ministry that comes from God should trust in God for all its needs. Therefore, we have made it our policy not to solicit donations or contributions. However, if any one of our listeners is led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

©1998 Living Stream Ministry. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval system – without written permission from the publisher.

HOW TO PRAY-READ

Simply pick up the Word and *pray-read* a few verses in the morning and in the evening. . . . Just pray with the same words you read. On every page and in every verse there is a living prayer.

. . . For example, in pray-reading Galatians 2:20 simply look at the printed page, which says, "I am crucified with Christ." Then with your eyes upon the Word and *praying from deep within*, say: "Praise the Lord, 'I am crucified with Christ.' Hallelujah! 'Crucified with Christ.' Amen! 'I am.' O Lord, 'I am crucified.' Praise the Lord! 'Crucified with Christ.' Amen! 'I am crucified with Christ.' Hallelujah! Amen! 'And it is no longer.' Amen. 'No longer.' Amen. 'I who live.' O Lord. 'I who live.' Hallelujah! Amen! 'But it is Christ who lives in me,' etc." . . .

There is no need for you to compose any sentences or create a prayer. Just pray-read the Word. Pray the words of the Bible exactly as they read. Eventually, you will see that the whole Bible is a prayer book! You can open to any page of the Bible and start to pray with any portion of the Word. The Bible is *the* Book, the Holy Book. Every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God is different from anything else, even the best of the world. The world has only the words of human beings, but the Bible has the Word of God! Every word in this book is the Word of God. Although you may not understand a certain passage, still you are nourished while pray-reading it, because there is really something of God in His Word; the Word of God is His very breath. There is no need to explain or expound the Word; simply pray *with* the Word. . . . If you will practice this you will receive something so nourishing and strengthening within, which will empower you and give you life all the time. . . .

Thousands have proven that this is the right way to come to the Word of God. It has revolutionized their lives. It may seem awkward at first, but with practice and a sincere heart, you will touch the living Spirit. If you will try this both privately and corporately, you will be able to testify of the riches of Christ that have been imparted to you by pray-reading the Word of God. You will see blessing and growth in your spiritual life. There will be a great change. By contacting the Word in this way to enjoy Christ and be nourished by Him, you will be a person growing to maturity, full of life and saturated with this living One.

Pray-Reading the Word, by Witness Lee, pp. 7-14