

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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"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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If God leads you to walk a way that you know, it will not benefit you as much as if He would lead you to take the way that you do not know. This forces you to have hundreds and thousands of conversations with Him, resulting in a journey that is an everlasting memorial between you and Him.

The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, vol. 7, p. 1144

Dear Life-study Listener,

Our *Life-study of the Bible* journey continues this month as we travel through the book of Daniel. Along the way we have seen many different sights in God's Word that lead us to appreciate Him and enjoy His full salvation. The book of Daniel provides a unique and special picture for our experience.

In Daniel we can see that what Satan intended for evil, the Lord used for good. In the midst of such a dark situation in which God's people were taken into Babylonian captivity, the temple was destroyed, and seemingly God's interests were lost, Daniel and his young friends shone as beacons of light, pointing us back to God's faithfulness.

This thought of the Lord's sovereignty over every situation is a hallmark of this ministry. Daniel probably would have appreciated the quote on this page from Watchman Nee. We hope you also will be helped to have "hundreds and thousands of conversation with Him" as a result of the way He chooses to lead you.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE CAPTIVITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN BABYLON?

God gives significant attention in His word to an evil city that stands in direct opposition to His purpose with His people. This city's name in Hebrew is Babel (Gen. 11:9) and its name in Greek is Babylon (Rev.17:5). Although the city possesses a prestigious reputation of strength and grandeur, the Scriptures reveal Babylon as a place that captures God's elect and usurps their pure and single-hearted worship toward Him. For this reason God makes a call to His chosen ones, saying, "Come out of her, My people...for her sins have accumulated up to heaven" (Rev. 18:4-5). What does Babylon signify and how can we answer the Lord's call to come out of her? The answer to these questions can be found by tracing Babylon's development from its source in Genesis to its ultimate destruction in Revelation.

In Genesis 11, Babel had its beginning when the people of the earth said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves" (Gen. 11:4). In their rebellion toward God, fallen mankind endeavored to build up something for self-exaltation. In doing so, they rejected God, made a name for themselves, and worshipped idols (Josh. 24:2).

Later, Babel was enlarged, becoming Babylon during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 1:1). At that time, Babylon invaded Jerusalem,

(continued on page 2)

CAPTIVITY

(continued from page 1)

destroyed the temple, captured God's people, and brought the vessels used for the worship of God into the idol temple (Dan. 1:2; 2 Kings 25:8-9, 14-15, 2 Chron. 36:6-7). This mixture of the things of God with the pagan and idolatrous things of man insulted God's holiness. During this time God's people were held in captivity and kept from worshipping God according to His intention.

Finally, what began in Genesis and developed in 2 Kings is consummated in Revelation where Babylon is called Babylon the Great. She is clothed in purple and scarlet and is gilded with gold, precious stone, and pearls, and she holds in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the unclean things of her fornication (Rev. 17:4). She has something of God in appearance, but within her are many sinful things. She is a mixture of the things of God with the heathen, sinful things of man, and for this God executes His judgment upon her (Rev. 18:8).

What then is Babylon? Babylon is a negative type of all man-made organizations and endeavors which, whether secular or religious, exalt man, reject God, and worship something other than God. Thus, to come out of Babylon is to come out of anything that bears the characteristics of self-exaltation and mixture in worship toward Him. When we, under the Lord's merciful enlightenment, condemn everything within us that is halfway and not absolute toward God, we too come to hate all that Babylon represents. Eventually at Babylon's destruction, voices from heaven will shout "Hallelujah!" (Rev. 19:1-4) for by His judgment God will destroy everything, which having the character of Babylon, frustrates God's people in their pure and absolute worship toward Him.

For further reading, please see The Glorious Church by Watchman Nee and Truth Lessons, level 2, vol. 2, lesson 18; Life-Study of Genesis, message 36; and Life-Study of Revelation, message 53 by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Excerpt from

LESSONS ON PRAYER

BY WITNESS LEE

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER IS TO GLORIFY GOD

A proper prayer is not to cause man to have the enjoyment in his accomplishment or in the result, but to cause God to gain one hundred percent of the glory. Yes, it is you who prayed; it is God Who answered your prayer and brought it to pass, but you should not have any place in this. If after a prayer has been fulfilled you have any place in it, then you ought to know there is something wrong with your prayer—you have not as yet thoroughly learned the lessons of prayer. Therefore, this principle is very important.

In Jeremiah 29 God said, "That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (vv. 10-11). These words proclaimed God's intention toward the Israelites; these were things that He intended to do. But, let me ask you, brothers and sisters, how could God carry out His intention? According to God's principle, His intention must be carried out through man's prayer on earth. Without man's prayer, God's desire cannot be fulfilled. What kind of person can be used by God to pray for His intention? There is only one kind, a person who lives before God, waits before Him, and allows God to do the initiating. When you read the book of Daniel you see that Daniel was one who really did not initiate anything before God. He waited before God, caring only for God, not for himself. Thus, he touched and understood this particular intention of God and learned that God would turn again the captivity of the children of Israel after seventy years were accomplished. Since Daniel's desire matched God's intention, he fasted and poured out this desire before God in prayer. Thus God's heart's desire and intention came out from God, went into Daniel, passed through him, and eventually returned to the throne of God. Then the throne of God took immediate action concerning the situation. This action was not at all for Daniel's enjoyment or glorying but for God to gain the glory. This is a very meaningful matter. Although Daniel prayed for others that God would cause them to return, Daniel himself did not go back. He may have returned eventually, but there is no clear record of that in the Bible. It seems that he had asked for one thing and God brought it to pass, yet he himself did not participate in the result.

According to God's principle, His intention must be carried out through man's prayer on earth.

Therefore, concerning the principles of prayer, your whole being from head to toe must be put aside. Your being does not have much place in prayer. In the beginning it is God who initiates, in the process you are but one who cooperates with God, and ultimately it is for the glory of God. This is real prayer—man being united with God and cooperating with Him on earth, allowing Him to express Himself and accomplish His purpose through man.

Lessons on Prayer, pp. 32-33

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

Approximately two months ago, your ministry graciously sent me a *Stream Magazine* on God's purpose and *A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens*. I greatly enjoyed reading both booklets. I found both to be edifying and intriguing. I regularly listen to your broadcasts on radio station KCCF. Witness Lee's ministry is exceptional. I often am astounded at the degree to which he is able to communicate his vast amount of knowledge to the radio listener. Your program is truly a remarkable source of scriptural wisdom. God bless.

Surrey, B.C., Canada

I have gone from milk to meat in God's Word.

I've been listening to the program over the past six months. I'm always impressed with the depth. I'll hear passages discussed that I'm familiar with, but there is a greater depth to it. It touches me with a greater understanding and it sticks with me. I might have heard it explained before, but whatever the explanation was, it fell away. So I was prompted to get some of these resources. I do appreciate the effort of the broadcast.

Seattle, WA

Greetings from Ontario, Canada. I do enjoy each part of your monthly news-letters. I find they teach me something new from the Scriptures, but more importantly, they cause me to go into my Bible to learn even more. I

would like to encourage each person who reads this to go to your computer and look up the many archive messages that await you there [www.lsm.org/radio]. I love these messages and truly have learned many, many great truths from God's Word. Thank you so much for this ministry, as I have gone from milk to meat in God's Word. I pray that God may bless each one of you as you serve Him until He comes.

Guelph, Ontario, Canada

I look forward every day to your broadcast at 3:00. If I miss your mes-

sage at 3:00, I try to get it at 7:00. In winter time they have the station close about 6:00, so I only get it one time. Because I'm in sales, a lot of times I have a customer when the program is on. I try to listen every day, but sometimes I get trapped on the job where I can't. After I was saved in 1980, I started studying. I kept searching for some things that I wasn't getting from the services I was in. The Lord kept showing me things, but I didn't quite understand. I kept seeking. I was driving on the road one day, and I turned the radio on. I heard the speaker, probably last year sometime. It's been a blessing and I look forward to hearing it every day. I'm trying to get a lot of other people to listen, too.

Lakeland, FL

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

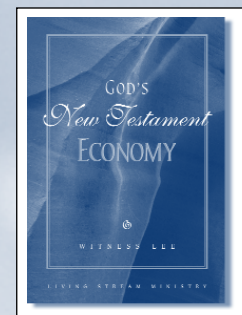
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WITNESS LEE

Drawing upon nearly 60 years of studying the Holy Scriptures, Witness Lee provides a comprehensive view of God's purpose and plan in God's New Testament economy. God's New Testament Economy is a thorough study of the New Testament. It does not provide superficial inspiration nor is it a dry, systematic analysis. However, it presents a revelation of the Triune God's plan that will both inform and encourage the reader to pursue a full experience of our wonderful Triune God.

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The PATH OF Life

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual 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.

ENJOYING CHRIST BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

DRINKING THE SPIRIT BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

First Corinthians 12:13 says that we have all been given to drink one Spirit. This means that we have been positioned to drink and we are in a position to drink. God has accomplished everything, but God can never drink for us. Regardless of how much God loves you, you still have to drink. The way to drink is in verse 3. This verse says that when you say, "Lord Jesus," you are in the Holy

You have to realize you were positioned to drink

Spirit. In other words, when you say, "Lord Jesus," you are drinking. To be in the Holy Spirit means you are drinking of the Spirit.

You may feel you are so sinful, but your sinfulness has been taken care of on the cross. We were kept away by our sins, but our sins have been taken away (John 1:29). Then we were brought back to God and have been positioned and made to drink. You may say that you are so weak, but this is why you need to drink. There is no excuse or reason for being kept away from drinking the Spirit. Whatever sin you have committed cannot be bigger than the redemption accomplished on the cross. The redemption accomplished by Him on the cross is big enough to cover all your failures. You have to realize you were positioned to drink. Forget about your

failures, your sins, and your weaknesses. The redeeming blood, the prevailing blood of Christ, has taken care of all things. This is why we are told that we have been given, or made, to drink. Whether we are Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free, we all have been made to drink. Now that we have been positioned to drink, we should drink simply by calling, "Lord Jesus," again and again. Call on the Lord for fifteen minutes, and see what will happen.

Some of the older saints may say, "All of this is good for the young people, but not for me." But

breathing is the same for all ages. The young ones need the breathing; the old ones also need the breathing. As an older one, you may need more breathing. Do not consider that because you are old, you are qualified to graduate from breathing. There is no graduation from breathing. Calling on the Lord makes you younger. By calling on the Lord, you enjoy the Lord as your new strength and you mount up with wings like eagles (Isa. 40:31).

Many people have been Christians for years, and it is easy for them to read and consider the Bible. But if you ask them to pray or call on the Lord, you put them on the cross. When a newborn babe is delivered, sometimes the doctor has to spank him to get him to breathe. Sometimes we need to be "spanked" so that we will call on the name of the

Lord. One brother did not want to call on the Lord. But one day he was involved in a car accident. That was a real spanking. Right away he began to call, "O Lord Jesus." If you are not breathing, the Lord will give you a "spanking"; then you will right away say, "O Lord Jesus!" Whenever we have troubles or get sick, we may call on the Lord, but afterwards we may forget. We should build up a habit of calling on the Lord all day long. Do not think that this is a small matter. We should be the calling people.

The Fulfillment of God's Purpose by the Growth of Christ in Us, pp. 34-36, by Witness Lee

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.

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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 of our listeners are led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

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