

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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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

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NEW JERUSALEM

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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.