

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11, MARCH 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 Baptism?
- 2 Excerpt from *Watchman Nee's Testimony*
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life—The Parts of Man and Their Purposes, Part 1

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

KANSAS CITY, MO
KCWJ 1030 AM
1:30 P.M. MON-FRI

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

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

Dear Listeners,

You might have heard people make the comment, "I like radio, because the *pictures* are better."

Radio does have a special ability to engage the mind in a "visual" way. We are discovering that the book of Exodus, our current radio life-study, is extremely well suited for radio, because the pictures conveyed in this book are so vivid. But more than that, the pictures in Exodus of the children of Israel bring into focus many crucial elements of our own spiritual experiences. In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul uses the imagery of Exodus to make clear the significance of several items of the Christian life, such as baptism and the enjoyment of Christ as our real food and drink. He says in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And all ate the same spiritual food, And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ."

By now, if you have been following our broadcast of the journey of God's people out of Egypt and through the wilderness, you have realized that these pictures in the Old Testament are really for us, to assist us in our own "exodus." Like the children of Israel, we need an exodus out of the usurpation of the world, our "Egypt," and we also need to be set free from the bondage and tyranny of sin and Satan, our "Pharaoh."

Exodus may be a historical Old Testament book, but there can be little doubt that its imagery depicts experiences that are altogether for the New Testament. Thanks for listening, and stay tuned, because some of the best pictures are still ahead.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

In the book of Exodus, which is a book of pictures, we have a remarkable picture of baptism. The New Testament speaks in various places regarding the significance of baptism. However it is exceedingly helpful to ponder the picture of baptism in the book of Exodus.

If we have the kind of understanding that was given to Paul in 1 Corinthians 10, where he speaks of baptism, we will see that in the sight of God the Red Sea was one huge baptistry. The children of Israel passed through on dry land, the sea having been divided. They emerged on the other side safe and sound. When Pharaoh with his armies attempted to follow them, they perished in the waters of the Red Sea. On the one hand, the waters of the Red Sea were a salvation to the people of Israel. On the other hand, these same waters meant the destruction of Pharaoh and his armies.

The waters of baptism signify both death and resurrection. When a believer enters into the water,

(continued on page 2)

BAPTISM

(continued from page 1)

that is a burial. When this believer emerges from the water, that is a resurrection. The people of Israel passed through the Red Sea, and, typically speaking, were buried and resurrected and came forth on the other side of the sea in the wilderness. On other occasions we have pointed out that from its positive perspective, the wilderness signifies separation unto God in resurrection. So regarding the children of Israel, who are a type of the believers today, the crossing of the Red Sea portrays baptism with the steps of death, burial, and resurrection.

What is particularly significant, however, is that Pharaoh and his chariots perished in the waters of the Red Sea. Pharaoh typifies Satan, and Egypt typifies the world as a realm of both enjoyment and slavery. The children of Israel were slaves under Pharaoh's tyranny. This indicates that as unbelievers we were slaves under the tyranny and usurpation of Satan. Once we believed in Christ and began to make our exodus from the world, Satan resisted and even pursued us. But God in His wisdom took this as an opportunity, through baptism, to deal drastically with Satan and the world. Recall how Pharaoh and his chariots perished in the waters of the Red Sea. This indicates that baptism signifies the termination of Satan and the world system organized by him to tyrannize us and usurp us.

If we have this picture in view when we speak of baptism, we will realize that baptism is a tremendously significant step in the completion of our experience of God's salvation. Through baptism we pass through death and enter into resurrection. Through baptism we are delivered from Satan and the world. We believe it is a spiritual fact and reality in the sight of God that in the waters of baptism lie buried not only our old man but also Satan and the usurping, tyrannizing world under his dominion. Is this not a striking picture? Is not baptism a momentous event in a believer's life? Is not the revelation of baptism both in picture and in word profoundly significant? We very much appreciate the picture in Exodus of our salvation through water and of Satan's termination through the same water that has saved us. This is baptism as portrayed in the book of Exodus.

For further reading on this subject, please see Truth Lessons, Level One, Volume 3 (Lesson 32 and 33) and New Believers Series: Baptism, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Excerpt from

WATCHMAN NEE'S TESTIMONY

In 1936 Watchman Nee gave three testimonies concerning his personal experiences which have been compiled in the book Watchman Nee's Testimony. He spoke of his learning to serve the Lord, being dealt with by God, learning the lesson of the cross, living a life by faith, and many other matters. Below is a brief excerpt from the first testimony of his salvation and calling.

SAVED AND CALLED AT THE SAME TIME

I was saved in 1920 at the age of seventeen. Before being saved I experienced some mental conflict concerning whether or not to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior and whether or not to become the Lord's servant. For most people, the problem at the time of salvation is how to be delivered from sin. But for me, being saved from sin and my life career were linked together. If I were to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior, I would simultaneously accept Him as my Lord. He would deliver me not only from sin but also from the world. At that time I was afraid of being saved, for I knew that once I was saved I must serve the Lord. Of necessity, therefore, my salvation would be a dual salvation. It was impossible for me to set aside the Lord's calling and to desire only salvation. I had to choose either to believe in the Lord and have a dual salvation or forfeit both. For me to accept the Lord would mean that both events would take place simultaneously.

FINAL DECISION

On the evening of April 29, 1920, I was alone in my room. I had no peace of mind. Whether I sat or reclined, I could find no rest, for within was this problem of whether or not I should believe in the Lord. My first inclination was not to believe in the Lord Jesus and not be a Christian.

However, that made me inwardly uneasy. There was a real struggle within me. Then I knelt down

to pray. At first I had no words with which to pray. But eventually many sins came before me, and I realized that I was a sinner. I had never had such an experience in my life before that time. I saw myself as a sinner and I also saw the Savior. I saw the filthiness of sin and I also saw the efficacy of the Lord's precious blood cleansing me and making me white as snow. I saw the Lord's hands nailed to the cross, and at the same time I saw Him stretching forth His arms to welcome me, saying, "I am here waiting to receive you." Overwhelmed by such love, I could not possibly reject it, and I decided to

accept Him as my Savior. Previously, I had laughed at those who believed in the Lord, but that evening I could not laugh. Instead, I wept and confessed my sins, seeking the Lord's forgiveness. After making my confession, the burden of sins was discharged, and I felt buoyant and full of inward joy and peace. This was the first time in my life that I knew I was a sinner. I prayed for the first time and had my first experience of joy and peace. There might have been some joy and peace before, but the experience after my salvation was very real. Alone in my room that evening, I saw the light and lost all consciousness of my surroundings. I said to the Lord, "Lord, You have really been gracious to me."

Watchman Nee' Testimony, pp. 15-16, published by Living Stream Ministry.

