

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 26, JUNE 2000

*"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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### Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

DALLAS, TX

KSKY 660 AM

5:30 P.M. SUNDAY

RALEIGH, NC

WDTF 570 AM

12:30 P.M. MON-FRI

Dear Life-study Listener,

Towards the end of this month we will finish *Life-study of Revelation* and begin *Life-study of Daniel*. If you have been listening to the radio programs, you know *Life-study of Revelation* has been an in-depth and enlightening study. Many of our listeners have ordered and received the large color chart entitled "The Chart of the Seventy Weeks and the Coming of Christ, with the Rapture of the Saints." You can still call us to order the chart, which will also be helpful as we go through the book of Daniel. This same chart is included in the back pages of the New Testament Recovery Version.

Many listeners who enjoy Witness Lee's ministry may not know that he wrote almost 250 hymns in *Hymns*, published by Living Stream Ministry. We are happy to include one of those hymns in this month's newsletter on page two. This particular hymn corresponds with the revelation of the New Jerusalem as the completion of the book of Revelation and of the entire Bible. We hope you enjoy its depth.

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE DESTINY OF THE BELIEVERS?

Christians have been told that they will go to heaven to live in a mansion and walk on streets of gold. But the pure revelation in the Bible tells us that our ultimate destiny is much higher, richer, and more profound. It is the New Jerusalem. We must see three crucial aspects of the New Jerusalem as our eternal destiny.

Firstly, the New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2), His counterpart, for Christ's full satisfaction. As His bride, she is wholly one with Christ, constituted with Christ to be holy, without blemish, and glorious (Eph. 5:27). She speaks in absolute oneness with Him (Rev. 22:17). In the bride, God's plan to be one with man and Christ's desire is finally fulfilled. To be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ is our ultimate destiny.

The second aspect of the New Jerusalem is that it is the consummation of God's economy, God's plan. In the first two chapters of the Bible, God's plan to be one with man can be seen by His placing man in front of the tree of life (Gen. 2:9), a picture of God Himself as life to be received by man. In the garden we also see a river flowing with precious materials in it (Gen. 2:10-12). Both the tree of life and the river can again be seen at the very end of the

*(continued on page 2)*

## ULTIMATE DESTINY

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Bible in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1, 2, 14, 19). The New Jerusalem, then, is the consummation of God's economy to reach man and be received by man as the divine life and life supply, signified by the flowing river of life with the tree of life.

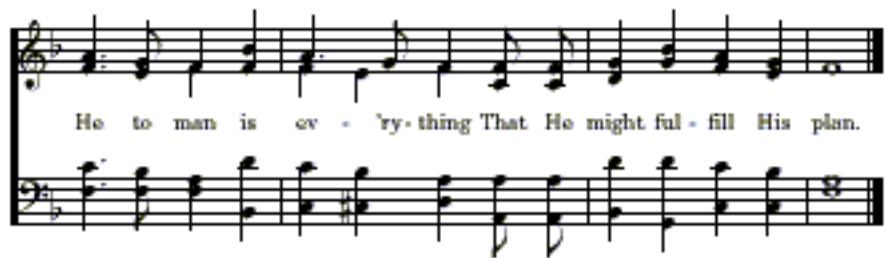
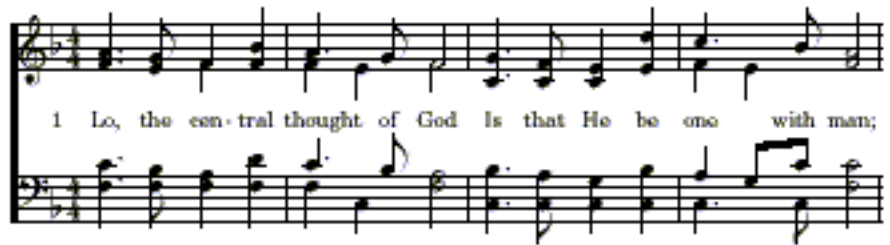
The third aspect of the New Jerusalem is that it is the ultimate consummation of God's building work throughout the ages. God's desire is to dwell with us (John 14:23), to abide in us and have us abide in Him (John 14:20; 15:4), to have His dwelling place in our spirit (Eph. 2:22), and to even make His home in our heart (Eph. 3:17), building Himself into us, and making us a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). Eventually, all of God's building work is consummated in Revelation 21 in a builded city, the holy city, New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2). Our ultimate destiny is to be this mutual dwelling place of God and man, God builded into us and we into Him.

Our God has a much higher destiny for His believers than a material city. Since the New Jerusalem as Christ's bride, the consummation of God's plan and of God's building, is our ultimate destiny, then surely we should take it as the goal of all our life and work today. Today may we cooperate with Him to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29) to be His counterpart, His bride. May we be those who continually receive of the divine life and life supply to be transformed into precious stones to be builded together into our ultimate destiny, the New Jerusalem.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Central Thought of God; God's New Testament Economy*, both by Witness Lee; and *Affirmation and Critique* Volume 5, no. 2 (April 2000), published by Living Stream Ministry.

Below is a hymn written by Witness Lee concerning the Scripture's revelation of the New Jerusalem as the ultimate manifestation of God's central thought.

F. F. F. F.



2 Earthen vessel man was made --  
Body, soul, and spirit too,  
God as life that he may take  
And with Him have oneness true.

6 In its center, as its pow'r,  
Is the throne of Christ and God,  
Whence doth flow the stream of life  
As the Spirit's living flood.

3 By the flow of life divine,  
Man becomes a precious stone  
Fit for building God's abode,  
That His glory might be known.

7 Christ, the tree of life, is there  
In the flowing of the stream,  
Yielding fruit of life divine  
As the food of life supreme.

4 'Tis the city God hath built,  
'Tis the dwelling God requires,  
'Tis the new Jerusalem  
Which fulfills His heart's desires.

8 God in Christ, the glorious light,  
Thru the city brightly shines,  
Scattering all the deathly night  
With its light of life divine.

5 'Tis the building of the saints,  
'Tis the blend of God and man,  
Purposed by the Father's will  
Long before the world began.

9 God in man and man in God  
Mutual dwelling thus possess;  
God the content is to man,  
And the man doth God express.

(Hymns #972)