

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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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

AUGUSTA, GA
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9:00 A.M. SUNDAY

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Dear Listeners,

Recently the world has seen several devastating earthquakes. It is comforting to remember that we believers in Christ have received "an unshakable kingdom" (Heb 12:28). We have appreciated the fresh light from *Life-study of Exodus* on Exodus 35:9, "And onyx stones and stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate." We believers, as the precious stones, are "set" on the ephod and the breastplate of the high priest, a picture of Christ. The onyx stone could never fall off of the ephod of Christ our heavenly High Priest. Nothing can shake us from Christ. We are set!

We will conclude *Life-study of Exodus* on December 3. From your comments, we believe those of you who have stayed with us in Exodus throughout this year have received much light, revelation, and life supply. Included in this issue of *The Hearing of Faith* is a final excerpt from this momentous life-study. We will begin broadcasting *Life-study of Matthew* on December 6. Matthew, which speaks of the gospel of the kingdom, promises to be full of enlightenment and God's rich speaking.

Have "The Path of Life" articles each month helped you to know Christ as life? If so, we would love to hear from you what your experience has been. By providing excerpts of ministry concerning matters and practices of life as revealed in God's Word, we hope to help the Lord's seekers into the daily experience of Christ and growth in the divine life.

If you are able to listen to *Life-study of the Bible* over the Internet, you will want to visit our web page, www.lsm.org/radio. We have fixed the problems we had in the past, and we are keeping the Internet broadcasts current with what you are hearing on the radio.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE NEW COVENANT? PART 1

The revelation concerning the new covenant, or the new testament, is one of the greatest truths presented to us in the Scriptures. Sadly, very few believers have been adequately enlightened concerning this truth. As a result, many are not enjoying the marvelous spiritual blessings and benefits that are ours in the new covenant.

In order to begin to grasp the meaning and significance of the new covenant, we need to know the difference between a promise, an oath, a covenant, and a testament. A promise is an ordinary word by God in which He tells us that He will do a certain thing. That promise is strengthened by an oath in which God Himself swears by His immutable Godhead that what He has promised will be fulfilled. Once a promise has been strengthened by an oath, it can become a covenant. A covenant is somewhat like a contract in which two parties agree to fulfill certain conditions. A testament is a much stronger form of a covenant. A testament means that the person who has entered into a

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covenant has died, and the death of that person now makes that covenant a testament. As a result, the parties involved no longer need to do something in order to fulfill the requirements. Rather, the beneficiaries of the testament need to realize that everything has been done for them. All the items in the covenant have become bequests in the testament, or will, and these bequests are for them, the recipients.

Our Lord Jesus, through the shedding of His redemptive blood on the cross, has enacted a new covenant (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20). This new covenant in actuality is a testament. The whole New Testament is such a covenant, such a testament, containing countless items concerning the person and work of Christ that are available to the believers in Christ for their continual experience and enjoyment. This may be comparable to a person being designated an heir in someone's will and testament. Once that person has died, the will, the testament, is enacted, and now the heir simply receives the relevant bequests.

Our eyes need to be opened to see that in Christ, God has made a new covenant, which is a testament enacted in the blood of Jesus (Heb. 9:15-23). According to the terms of this covenant, this testament, God in His righteousness wants to give us in Christ countless bequests. He simply wants us in faith to open our being and to see and receive all that God in Christ has for us as bequests in the testament.

The Lord Jesus, the very One who enacted the new testament in His blood, is now interceding on our behalf, praying that we would be enlightened to realize what is in this covenant. He is also executing, enforcing, carrying out, applying all the bequests of this new testament (Heb. 9:15). He has enacted the new testament, and now He is executing the new testament, praying for us that we will see it, believe it, receive it, experience it, and enjoy it for the carrying out of God's New Testament economy. May our eyes be opened to see this marvelous revelation and may our faith be strengthened to enter into it and to experience it.

For further reading on this subject please see Life-study of Hebrews, messages 36 and 41 and the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS

“Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.”

Exodus 40:34

A SKETCH OF GENESIS AND EXODUS

I believe it would be helpful to present a brief sketch of Genesis and Exodus. In Genesis 1 we were created by God, and in Genesis 3 we became fallen. Then, after Babel, we were called with Abraham and became river-crossers, Hebrews. Although we were called with Abraham, we became dead and also enslaved to serve Satan's purpose in the world. Then one day we were saved. The calling was with Abraham in Genesis, but the saving was through Christ as the Passover lamb in Exodus.

Having been redeemed by the Passover lamb, we traveled through the wilderness and experienced Christ as the heavenly manna and enjoyed Him as the living water out of the cleft rock. Eventually, we were brought to Mount Sinai, and it is here that we have the church life, typified by the living of the children of Israel around the tent of meeting. Even if not all of us have entered into the tabernacle, we all are gathered around the tent of meeting, and we can see the cloud on the tent of meeting. Here there is no sin, no death, and no world. Here at the tent of meeting we have God in His presence and glory. Here we become His dwelling, and He becomes our dwelling. This is a mutual abode. With the tent of meeting what we have is not merely an individual expression; we have a people as God's corporate expression. The goal of God's purpose is to have such an expression through His redeemed people. This expression is the goal not only of God's redemption, but also of His eternal purpose. What God desires is to have a corporate expression of Himself through His called and redeemed people.

THE RECOVERY AND GOD'S PURPOSE

We need to be deeply impressed that the Lord's recovery is a great matter. We are here in the recovery not merely for spirituality, holiness, victory, or blessing. Rather, we are here for God's eternal purpose. The books of Genesis and Exodus consummate with God's tabernacle, His dwelling place, filled with glory. In like manner, the entire Bible will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal tabernacle, a tabernacle filled with glory. In the church life as God's dwelling place we have the leading and guidance of our God. He is one with us, and we are one with Him. How wonderful! Now we are in the proper position to hear the Lord's voice, His speaking, as recorded in Leviticus.

We thank the Lord for what we have seen in the books of Genesis and Exodus. I have the full assurance that those who have been with us throughout the years can never be the same. Eternity will reveal what the Lord has been doing within us and among us for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. Praise Him for the glorious conclusion of the book of Exodus!

Life-study of Exodus, pp. 1956-1957