

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – December 9, 2018

### Announcements

- Today is the last day to sign up for the winter training webcast. Please sign up with the bookroom.
- We are starting a new HWMR from the recent ITERO. Copies are available in the bookroom. We are covering Week 2 this week.
- No parking is permitted at the Presbyterian church parking lot. A map of available parking is on the tables.
- We are reading messages 25 and 26 from the Life-Study of Numbers. The reading schedule is on the table and posted on the church website.
- The Wednesday night ministry meeting webcast starts at 7:30 pm at the following locations:
  - Smith – South Bellevue, (206) 914-3447, in English
  - Chang – Overlake, (425) 830-3900, in Korean
  - Wang – South Bellevue, (425) 653-2249, in Chinese
  - Miyake – Central Bellevue, (425) 451-7294, in English

### Burdens for Prayer

- England Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- Prayer meeting

### **This Week: December 10 – December 16**

**Morning Revival:** *Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God,* week 2

**Hall Cleaning:** Downstairs – East Bellevue  
Upstairs – Eastgate

<b>Tuesday</b>	7:30 pm	Prayer meeting
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<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 am	Breakfast
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<b>Lord's Day</b>	9:30 am	Lords' Table
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## **2018 Winter Training Webcast Schedule**

Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 1 Msg. 2	9:00 am 10:30 am
Wednesday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 3	7:00 pm
Thursday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 4	7:00 pm
Friday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 5	7:00 pm (open meeting)
Saturday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 6 Msg. 7	9:00 am 10:30 am
Lord's Day, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Msg. 8	10:30 am
	Msg. 9	6:00 pm (open meeting)
Monday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Msg. 10	7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Msg. 11	9:00 am
	Msg. 12	10:30 am

### **LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS MESSAGE TWENTY-FIVE JOURNEYING (10)**

Scripture Reading: Num. 17

In Numbers 17 we have God's vindication. Before we consider this matter, I would like to add a word concerning the descendants of Korah.

Numbers 16 seems to indicate that all of Korah's family, including his children, perished. But Numbers 26:11 tells us that the sons of Korah did not die. Either they did not take part in that conspiracy and rebellion, or they took Moses' word in 16:26 and departed from the tent of their father and thereby escaped the tragedy that took place when the earth opened and swallowed Korah and his company.

In 1 Chronicles 6:33-37, a record of the genealogy of Samuel, we are told that Samuel was a descendant of Korah. Korah aspired to have a higher position in the priesthood. He did not attain it and he became rebellious. However, one of his descendants became a priest, not by struggling for power but by being offered as a Nazarite. (See Messages Eight through Ten on being sanctified to be a Nazarite.) Samuel was not only a priest but also a great prophet.

Furthermore, as the title of Psalm 88 indicates, this psalm was written by Heman, a descendant of Korah and a grandson of Samuel (1 Chron. 6:33). Heman was not only a psalmist but also a singer in the temple under David's arrangement.

In God's sparing Korah's descendants, we can see His mercy. One of Korah's descendants became a great prophet and took part in the priesthood. Another became one of the psalmists, a writer of one of the best psalms and a temple singer and musician. Thus, from the history recorded in the Old Testament, we can see that God is severe to some but merciful to others. Whether we experience His mercy or His severity depends on how we behave ourselves.

## **E. God's Vindication**

Numbers 17 is a chapter on God's vindication. God's vindication always goes along with His judgment. Hence, His judgment and His vindication cannot be separated. Actually, God's judgment is a form of vindication. But judgment is mainly on the negative side, and vindication is mainly on the positive side. On the negative side, in chapter sixteen God judged Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the other rebels, including not only the two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly but also the company of Korah. In carrying out this judgment, God exercised His righteousness. In chapter seventeen God went further to vindicate Aaron and Moses, His deputy authority, in a positive way.

### **1. After His Judgment, God Commanding**

That Twelve Rods Be Laid before the Testimony

After His judgment, God commanded that twelve rods be laid before the testimony (the Ten Commandments in the ark), which typified Christ and was the place where God met with His people (vv. 1-7). This signifies that everything had to be brought into the presence of God to let God deal with the real situation by speaking the truth to all the people through His vindication. In typology a rod signifies authority (cf. 1 Cor. 4:21). In Numbers 17 the rods represented the leaders of the twelve tribes (v. 2), and Aaron's rod represented the tribe of Levi (v. 3).

Jehovah said, "The rod of the man whom I choose shall bud; thus I will make to cease from Me the murmurings of the sons of Israel, which they murmur against you" (v. 5). A rod is a piece of dead wood. It has not only been cut, but it is also dead and dried up. Yet such a dead and dried up piece of wood would bud. A bud is something

organic, something of life. It was God's intention that this budding of a dead rod would cause the murmurings of the people to cease.

The rods were to lie before God in the tent of meeting through a whole night. It is not likely that Aaron slept well that night. He probably thought about his rod, wondering if it would bud. For Aaron that night was truly a dark night. Sometimes, for His vindication, God puts us into a dark night, a dark tunnel, through which we must pass.

## 2. Aaron's Rod Budding

Moses must have been the first person to see the budding rod. "On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had budded and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds" (v. 8). What a miracle that was! Aaron's dead, dried up rod budded. This was an organic miracle.

Moses brought all the rods to all the sons of Israel, and they all looked (v. 9). The record indicates that, without saying a word and without praising the Lord for His vindication, each man took his rod.

The budding rod of Aaron typifies not a dead Christ but the resurrected Christ, the budding Christ, who imparts life to others. Christ always flows out life to enliven others. Christ is the greatest budding rod in the universe. Today He is still budding, and we are a small part, the fruit, the almonds, of His budding.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.  
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<b>Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes</b>	
Lord's Day, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 8:3-6
Monday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 8:7-13
Tuesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 8:14-25
Wednesday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 8:26-39
Thursday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 9:1-18
Friday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 9:19 – 10:3
Saturday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Romans 10:4-15