

Announcements

- There will be a Bible distribution at Bellevue College on January 15th and 16th; there is a sign up on the table for helping on campus.
- The International Chinese-Speaking conference will be held in Anaheim, California, February 15-17, 2019. Please see Michael Lu for signing up.
- We are still short of our financial goal to support the London training center, please continue to pray and offer for this need.
- The saints serving with the piano service will meet together for lunch and fellowship after the meeting today. Lunch will be provided.
- All the saints serving with the children's meetings will meet on January 20th after the Lord's day meeting.
- The Memorial Day conference will be held in Seattle this year and there will be a big need to provide hospitality. We will have more details in the coming weeks; we encourage all families to receive hospitality.
- We are covering week 7 for the Holy Word for Morning Revival on "Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-Inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God".
- We are reading messages 35 and 36 from the Life-Study of Numbers. The reading schedule is posted on the church website.
- There will be no ministry meeting until the full-time training resumes in February.

Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- Prayer meeting
- Northwest localities

This Week: January 14 – January 20		
Morning Revival: <i>Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God,</i> week 7		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Korean saints Upstairs – Kirkland		
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table
January		
25-27	Conference in Boise, ID	
February		
2-3	Conference in Tri Cities, WA	
8-10	Conference in Spokane, WA	
March		
1-3	High School Retreat	
29-31	Conference in Missoula, MT	

LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS
MESSAGE THIRTY-SIX
FIGHTING (5)

In typology, these five chapters present us a picture of Christ and the church. Chapter twenty shows us Christ as the smitten rock who, in resurrection, is flowing out living water to meet our need (v. 8). Christ has been smitten, crucified, and there is no need for Him to be smitten again. Now He is in resurrection flowing with living water to quench people's thirst. The crucified and resurrected Christ is here to meet us in our need. As long as we have Him, God has no problem with us and we have no problem with God.

In chapter twenty-one we have further aspects of Christ. First, as the bronze serpent, Christ is our replacement (vv. 8-9). He became the same as we in nature with the exception that in Him there was no sin. He was in the likeness of the flesh of sin (Rom. 8:3), but He did not have the sinful nature, just as the bronze serpent had the form of a serpent without having the poisonous nature of a serpent. Because Christ came in the likeness of the flesh of sin, He could be our

replacement, bearing God's judgment and accomplishing redemption. As our replacement, Christ has solved not only the outward problem of sins but also the inward problem of our sinful nature. Having solved these problems through His crucifixion, in resurrection this One has become a fountain, a well (Num. 21:17), springing up with living water, which is the consummated Spirit of the processed Triune God. In our experience we need to dig this well (v. 18). If we dig the well, we will become nobles and leaders. Furthermore, as Numbers 33 indicates, Christ is our destination, our land of rest. Therefore, Christ is our replacement, our well, and our land of rest. When we enjoy Him as our land of rest, we do not have any lack or shortage.

In Numbers 23 and 24 we have four parables spoken by Balaam, a Gentile prophet. These parables reveal much concerning the church, with the fourth parable revealing something concerning Christ.

Let us first consider what these parables show us concerning the church. "Behold, a people that will dwell alone, /And will not reckon themselves among the nations!" (23:9b). This indicates that the church is composed of a separate people, a particular people, a people sanctified to God. The church is not mixed with the nations but stands alone. "He has not beheld iniquity in Jacob;/Nor has He seen trouble in Israel" (23:21a). This indicates that, in the sight of God, the church is perfect, having no iniquity. The church is perfect because the church is in Christ. "How fair are your tents, O Jacob,/Your dwelling places, O Israel!" (24:5). This indicates that in appearance the church is beautiful. In summary, we see in the first parable that the church has a particular standing; in the second parable, that the church is perfect in the sight of God; and in the third parable, that the appearance of the church is fair, beautiful.

Balaam's fourth parable contains a prophecy concerning Christ (24:17). A church that is sanctified, perfect, and beautiful is a church that is full of Christ. The church can be holy, perfect, and beautiful because the church has Christ. Christ is the content of the church. Christ is the constituent of the church and every part of the church. In the church as the new man Christ is all and in all (Col. 3:10-11).

The Christ prophesied in Numbers 24:17 is not an earthly Christ but a heavenly Christ. He is the Star that comes forth out of Jacob and the Scepter that arises out of Israel. Out of the church comes forth the Christ who is the Star, and this Star is the Scepter. This means that the heavenly Christ is the authority in the universe. Today Christ is our Star, but in the future He will be the Scepter, the One with

universal authority.

In Balaam's prophetic parables we see not only certain aspects of Christ and the church but also many of the riches related to the church. The church "has as it were the horns of the wild ox" (23:22; 24:8). This indicates that the church is victorious. The church is also likened to a lion and a lioness (23:24; 24:9). This is a further indication that the church is victorious. Numbers 24:6 and 7 speak of "valleys that stretch afar," "gardens beside a river," and water that flows from buckets. This reveals that the church is like a garden, that the church has valleys, and that in the church there is an abundance of water.

Ephesians is a heavenly book on the church, but we do not find in Ephesians the aspects of the church presented in Balaam's parables in Numbers 23 and 24. Ephesians does not tell us that the church is a garden by a river or that in the church water flows from buckets. Moreover, Ephesians does not reveal that the church has valleys or that we in the church are lions and lionesses. In the church there are lions that can devour the enemy. Even Moab realized that God's people are like an ox that licks up the grass of the field (Num. 22:4). If we see the church as it is revealed in Numbers, we will not despise the church or look down on the church.

Seemingly Numbers is merely a book of history concerning Israel's journey in the wilderness. However, the intrinsic contents, the intrinsic constituents, of this history are nothing other than Christ and the church.

Having seen the picture of Christ and the church presented in Numbers 20—24, let us now go on to consider 25:1-18.

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, January 13 th	1 Cor. 3:10-13
Monday, January 14 th	1 Cor. 3:14-23
Tuesday, January 15 th	1 Cor. 4:1-9
Wednesday, January 16 th	1 Cor. 4:10-21
Thursday, January 17 th	1 Cor. 5:1-13
Friday, January 18 th	1 Cor. 6:1-11
Saturday, January 19 th	1 Cor. 6:12-20