

GOODNEWS LETTER

Number 226

July 23, 2008

THINK SMALL (Expect Big Blessings)

There were 2.1 Billion Christians in 2007, according to www.Adherents.com. But, that includes them all; from Catholics to protestants, Russelites to Mormons. Islam comes in second with numbers of 1.5 Billion.

But, we know, just as "They are not all Israel who are descended from Israel" (Romans 9:6), clearly, not all who hold up the Christian banner walk under its dictates and submit to the teachings of Jesus. The site considers Baptists as the largest protestant denomination among Christianity.

However, when we read what the Bible says, there is a much smaller number of persons receiving God's **promise** than what today's census indicates. Even though, most Christians trust in Jesus and are saved, on judgment day, we all shall see it as the Bible already tells it: "And then I (Jesus) will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

What the world sees is quite different from the Biblical record; for, God's work has always been on a '**SMALL**' scale. And, whether it's the New or the Old Covenant, a '**SMALL MOTIF**' runs throughout God's Word.

But, we must know what God's plan is about and what is included in it, before we are able to see the small, exclusive theme that runs from Genesis to Revelation.

And, when we start off, the first figure we see in the promise - if we view God's plan correctly, is Abraham - just one **small** aged man, called to leave everything he has; his family, friends and land. Abraham's faith in God begins the promise; which, through him, brings mankind the big blessings. It all begins with Abraham, "who is the father of us all," [Romans 4:16](#).

[Galatians 3](#) informs us that through the Seed of Abraham, God wills His blessings of inheritance to mankind. This is exactly what Jesus, the Seed, stated, "The meek shall inherit the earth" (Mt 5:5).

Only, when we see Abraham's promise and the fulfillment of that promise in Jesus, will the picture of redemption and inheritance be in focus. And, this understanding harmonizes with God's intentions from the very beginning - that man shall rule the earth. The promise never changes and, therefore, is ongoing. God

promised it to Abraham and his Seed (Jesus) and then, to those of faith (See, Galatians, Chapters 3 & 4).

Romans 4:13, clearly says that the promise was made to Abraham. "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."

And so, we have to **think small** when we begin with **ABRAHAM**. God took Abraham outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them...So shall your descendants be," Genesis 15:5.

But, with God, the big blessings are as sure as He is. "There was born from one man, and **him as good as dead** at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore," Hebrews 11:12.

Keep the numbers **small** when thinking of God's people. "The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the **fewest** of all peoples," Deuteronomy 7:7.

In defeating the enemy, God reduced Gideon's army of 32,000 to a much **smaller** number. "By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand," Judges 7:7a.

The **smallest** of Jesse's boys was anointed by Samuel, the prophet. "And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward," I Samuel 16:12b, 13a.

Don't seek the LORD in strong winds, earthquakes and fire, but listen to His gentle, **small** voice, "What doest thou here, Elijah," I Kings 19:12-13.

King Jesus is prophesized to be born in **small** Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be a clan of Judah. "From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity," Micah 5:2.

THINKING SMALL IS A NEW COVENANT NECESSITY

It's God's call. And, He calls the weak and foolish - the **small** things to confound the things which are strong. "...there are not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble" in God's choosing (I Cor 1:26-27).

God calls by faith. Although its beginnings are **small**, the results are big. "...if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move'... and it shall move," Matthew 17:20.

A church may be **small** in number but, when Jesus is there, it's exceedingly huge. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst," Matthew 18:20.

The **smallest** contribution may become the largest. God does **not** want what we have. He desires us. "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on" Mark 12:44.

Finally, as God's plan began with one man - Adam first, then man's **Recovery Promise** through Abraham, the plan continues; **small** in number and little in size.

It is amazing, but when Jesus returns, the promise ends up as it started, **small**. Jesus queried, "...however, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Lk 18:8). In another place He warned, "Remember Lot's wife," Luke 17:32

It really matters where our heart is; for, where the heart is, there we shall actively live and work. It is for that reason that believers understand what the promise of God is all about; how to receive it and how to utilize it. All of us are out of step unless we listen to and heed the words of the Son of God, Jesus. "But seek the kingdom, and all these things (food, raiment and housing) shall be added to you. Do not be afraid, **little** flock, for your **Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom**," Luke 12:31-32.

When the **small** promise becomes **big**, covering the earth, Christians who follow Jesus shall be among the "Many (that) shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 8:11. **THAT'S IMMEASURABLE; JUST LIKE COUNTING THE STARS.**