

# GOODNEWS LETTER

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## "A Never Changing Plan"

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints," Ephesians 1:18.

Math terms may help us to read this article. I'm no whiz, but I think the definition goes like: **The sum of the parts equal the whole.**

Yet, we know that, when it comes to God and His Son, we shall never fully understand the whole; not completely, until the resurrection.

But, we may learn an awful lot about Christ and His glorious work by observing other persons throughout the Bible by using the math term.

Let's say that the sum of the persons in the Bible; especially, the Old Covenant, add up and equal the accomplishments of Jesus, as a whole. For example, Joseph, the youngest son of Jacob.

Joseph was sold by his brothers, went into bondage (prison) and rose from there to be second in command of the Egyptian nation - second only to Pharaoh. If there is one type that pictures a clear portion of the work of Jesus, it's Joseph.

So, we add up, not subtract. Adding up the Bible makes more sense than cutting the whole into parts, slicing it into many different segments with different blessings; with some blessings withheld from Old Covenant men of faith on judgment day.

Some who like to use scissors are known as dispensationalists. Dispensationalism emphasizes discontinuity of the covenants God made with His various peoples.

In other words, dispensationalism sees the covenants that God made with Old Covenant persons as disconnected from the New Covenant. Some even deny the Bride to Old Covenant people. But, when we read Galatians, it is clear that the LORD thought of Israel as children; but, **His children**, nonetheless. Paul, certainly did. "**So,...while we were children, we were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world**" (Gal. 4:4).

It is our understanding that God brought His promise through His covenanted people, Israel. Again, Joseph presents us the picture of the plan continuing, even

when they were in bondage. The promise was not set aside. Israel went into bondage with the promise and after a time, carried it out of Egypt

Man is the reason the plan goes forward. It is by man (Jesus), for man (The world) and through man (God's people) that the LORD brings about His plan - the same plan. "And you brethren (speaking to the Galatian church and all Scriptural churches) like Isaac, are children of promise."

*[No, one does not have to be a church member to receive the new birth. What Paul is addressing contrasts the Law with grace. The promise is by grace; not works; by believers not Law keepers.]*

Therefore, many need to rethink their position on God's plan. It is not that Israel becomes part of the church in order to be in the plan of God; it's that we become Abraham's seed and heirs to the promise because of Israel's continuance.

Everything comes through the merciful grace of the LORD, of course. But, again, God works through and in His people; His covenanted people.

Notice that the promises fulfilled by Jesus (see Acts 13) are considered the same Promises that God made to Abraham. And, the "how" of the promise, is spelled out in Galatians 3:16. "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ." Hallelujah!!!

As the promises continued through Israel, a son was born. The Savior came to bring the plan to all those of faith; which, amounts to the blessings of receiving life, inheriting the earth and reigning with Christ. *[Please note: not all who are saved will inherit with Christ. See Gal 5:21; I Cor 6:9-10]*

Clearly, God wants us to see a whole plan within the entire Bible. God wants us to view the plan as ONE NEVER CHANGING PLAN. "For I, the LORD, do not change" (Mal. 3:6). And, coming to the New Covenant we hear, "There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism" (Eph 4:5).

When we read the Bible as one, it becomes a harmonious book. It brings all men of faith into the same plan - there's just one! The Bible plan blesses men of faith, alike.

When we read about the lives of faithful men (Abraham, Moses, Isaiah) and add up all the parts presented, we see God's faithfulness in Jesus Christ. Noah received grace. Moses was a great leader. Aaron was the High Priest. Abraham was the father of faith (Ro 4). Indeed, as we add up each person, and get the sum, we see the whole of Christ and His work. It's rejoicing time!!!

It's exciting to start at the beginning and have God's plan unfold to us. When Adam was created and placed in the Garden of Eden, we see the plan, in detail.

That is, God wants man to reign on earth, under His care. The Genesis account presents a kingdom teaching for us to learn; one that shall never change.

In God's plan, He presents four elements that are to make up His kingdom. The plan reveals: 1) The **King** (God); 2) **Constituents** (Adam and Eve); 3) **Law** (God's word); and, 4) **Territory** (Eden, now. Later, the entire earth).

This account is exactly what will occur at the Second Coming of Christ. Further, it's the reason why we must serve God just like it is written. We have to get saved, be baptized and raise up in a New Testament Church.

Next, we must adhere to all the ordinances; the commanded ones (love one another, study, etc.); as well as, the pictorial ones, baptism and the Lord's Supper. And, do them according to what is written. No changes here, either.

Yes! The plan - from cover to cover - never changes. Even, Adam was used mightily in God's plan after he fell from God's grace. Just read the genealogy of Jesus. Luke 3 goes backwards, from Joseph, ending with Adam in verse 38. Matthew 1 begins with Abraham. Indeed, everything in God's plan comes through man; therefore, we cannot exclude these great men of old from the blessings of the plan when the end comes.

The Never Changing Plan is spelled out for us in Hebrews 11:40, as it wraps up the faith chapter of Hebrews 11. "...God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect." In the catalogue of faith, you'll read of Noah, Abraham, Moses and more men (and, women) who served God in faith.

**THERE IS SO MUCH.** So many lines, motifs and doctrinal themes that run from Genesis throughout the Bible can overwhelm us, at times.

Because the Bible has one story after another, many don't find the straight and narrow easily. Even, those who find it, have a hard time staying on the road.

**Consistency is a Jewel!** And, we thank the LORD for concerned parents; for if Mommy and Daddy did not raise us in church, in this day of falling away, the hope of God's plan is very hard to grasp.

To serve the LORD (not just say that we love Him) we have to be led, taught and preached to, for a long time, before we see that God's plan never changes. But, what joy comes when we realize that the Bible does harmonize. It's the same plan, my friend.