

# LITTLE PEOPLE IN THE BIG PICTURE

## 1. HOW BIG IS YOUR BIBLE?

Despite the huge span of time covered and the rich diversity of literature contained in the Bible, it is possible to find vital unifying

themes. Our reading and appreciation of the contents will be greatly enhanced by an awareness of the whole span of the history of revelation. This no mere rule book for believers but the alert reader is soon caught up in an irresistible forward driving impulse from creation to the consummation.



Let's begin by thinking about how we read our Bible.

Have we made it too individualistic?

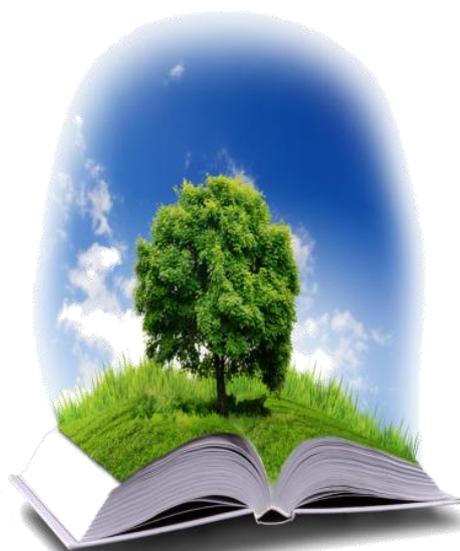
Have we made it too spiritual?

Have we made it too other-worldly?

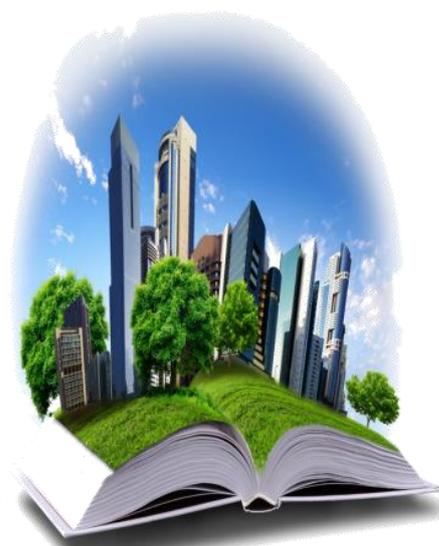
Have we considered God is interested in the corporate?

Have we considered God is interested in the body?

Have we considered God is interested in this earth?



**Genesis**



**Revelation**

## 2.LITTLE PEOPLE IN THE BIG STORY

...Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Joshua, Deborah and Hannah and all the other vivid characters who make up the story of the book of books. They are the first recognizable individuals in literature, not demigods or mythic heroes in epic situations, but ordinary persons wrestling with moral dilemmas, dreaming of children and a home. [Jonathan Sacks. RADICAL THEN, RADICAL NOW,p72]



### AND THESE ARE THE NAMES

## שמות

Shiprah and Puah – the midwives

1 וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַבָּאִים  
מִצְרָיִם אֶת יַעֲקֹב אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בָּאוּ:  
2 רְאוּבֵן שְׁמֵעוֹן לֹוִי וִיהוּדָה: 3 יִשָּׁשְׁכָר  
זְבוּלֹן וּבְנֵימֵן: 4 דָּן וְנַפְתָּלִי גָד וְאָשֶׁר:  
5 וַיְהִי כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ יִצְאֵי יִרְה־יַעֲקֹב שְׁבַעִים  
נֶפֶשׁ וַיּוֹסֶף הִנֵּה בְּמִצְרָיִם: 6 וַיָּמָת יוֹסֵף

### GENEALOGIES

#### *Scriptural Sominex?*

*The biblical fondness for genealogical lists is not pedantic antiquarianism, it is a search for personal involvement, a quest for a sense of personal place in the web of relationships in which God fashions salvation. [Eugene Peterson. FIVE SMOOTH STONES,p107]*

## *Christmas trees or family trees?*



## **UPSTAIRS / DOWNSTAIRS**

Nameless but certainly not useless (II Kings 5)

- No place is too strange
- No one is too small
- No action is too ordinary

*No man is an average man. The ordinary, typical man, the common run, undistinguished by either his superiority or by his inferiority, is the homunculus of statistics. **In real life there is no ordinary, undistinguished man**, unless man resigns himself to be drowned in indifference and commonness. Spiritual suicide is within everybody's reach. [WHO IS MAN, A.J.Heschel,38-39]*

### 3.VILLAGE WORKMAN and COSMIC LORD

In this session we are going to learn to read the Bible with two hands!

#### THE VILLAGE WORKMAN

'Tekton' in Nazareth

Involvement in everyday life



#### THE COSMIC LORD – John 1:1-3; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1



**Polarity is an essential trait of all things in reality**

**A model we can use:**



**Some of the polarities we meet in Scripture:**

God is above us (transcendent)

God is sovereign

God beyond time

The Bible is God's word

The kingdom is already

The universal

The wrath of God

Jesus, the Lord of the cosmos

God is with us (immanent)

Humans are responsible

God working in history

The Bible is written by humans

The kingdom is coming

The particular

The love of God

Jesus, the workman in the village