

## *God's Management Team*

“Those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.” “The meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.” “Those the Lord blesses will inherit the land.”<sup>(1)</sup> These are nice sounding words that never meant much to me. I was a city boy without any interest in owning land. Serving the Lord and his people consumed all my attention.

Additionally, Jesus promised “...the meek will inherit the earth.”<sup>(2)</sup> This promise matches the psalmist's declaration that the Lord “will exalt you to inherit the land”.<sup>(3)</sup> Well, it sure seems that these nice words carry some kind of important meaning.

### **God Chooses Humans to Manage His Earth**

God's need for tiny human partners defies explanation. Whether or not we understand it, God wants to use us to manage his earth and the people who live on it. Genesis 1:27-28 wonderfully describes God's intention to share his managerial duties with mankind. “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said..., ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground’.” The creation story continues by recording that “the Lord God...put [Adam] in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”<sup>(4)</sup>

Our most important assignment involves guiding the human race toward a loving relationship with Jesus. Consequently, God intends for the family and society to raise children to honor the Lord and value Jesus above everything else.

So, when scripture declares that we will inherit the land it isn't pointing all of us toward a career in real estate. No, we are to serve as God's faithful managers of the planet earth and the lives of the people who live on it.

### **God Enlarges His Plan for Humanity**

Satan and sinful mankind try mightily to diminish God's plan for humans. His totally wicked nature deludes Satan into believing that he can overthrow the creator of planet earth and annihilate human managers. In this way, Satan expects to rule creation.

All I can say to that is “forget it devil—you've lost big time”!

When Jesus declared that “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me,” he enlarged God's plan for the human race.<sup>(5)</sup> God the father appointed Jesus as manager of planet earth and also heaven. Through the man, Christ Jesus, God will use

millions of resurrected humans to guide and direct the affairs of the new heaven and earth.<sup>(6)</sup>

It's hard to find comfort when considering the history of mankind's ruler ship of plant earth. For thousands of years we've murdered one another, hated one another and misused the resources of this planet. But there's great news!

The managers of the new heaven and the new earth will inhabit resurrected bodies totally devoid of sin and selfishness. God's selflessness, the selflessness that compelled Jesus to sacrifice his life for us, controls resurrected people. Consequently, we will manage God's creation in complete harmony with God's loving nature. Resurrected human mangers care only for the perfect will of God. Things will go great when we inherit the land and the universe!

## **Our Present Day Management Style**

We're not talking about pie in the sky. We are discussing reality—the way things are and the way things will be. In fact, our present day management style relates directly to our usefulness in the coming ages.

God made us managers of our bodies, of our thoughts, of our time and of our relationships with people. Our bodies, thoughts, time and relationships belong to God: they are God's property on loan to us. He gave us the privilege of choosing how we use what he's given us. Consequently, we will answer to him for our management of ourselves and the people with whom we interact. We cannot separate between our present day management style and our future place in Jesus' coming kingdom.

Everything will be all right if we love Jesus whole-heartedly and our neighbors (families and everyone else) as ourselves. Loving Jesus supremely and putting others ahead of ourselves qualifies us as an unselfish member of God's management team.

Footnotes:

1. Psalm 37:9, 11 & 22
2. Matthew 5:5
3. Psalm 37:34
4. Genesis 2:15
5. Matthew 28:18
6. Revelation 21:1

