**LESSONS FROM LITTLE THINGS**

**PROVERBS 30:24-28**

 Job 12:7, “*But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:*”

 Too often we get caught up in what is *large*, *big*, *great* and *magnificent*.

 We are always being asked if we want to super size that, whatever that is.

 And I’m sure it was the same in Agur’s day.

 And yet he begins by saying: “*There be four things which are little upon the earth,*”

 You know for all the good things we can say about BHPC we are small.

 Do you understand that Jesus started with 12, and even after the resurrection, the church only numbered 120?

 Historians tell us that at that time the population of Palestine was around 4,000,000 people.

 So that meant that 1 in 30,000 were Christians.

 And yet those 120 people changed the world.

 We can learn elements of success that can be applied, to every part of our life, from some of God’s little creatures.

 None are too *little* or *feeble* to fill some place in God’s creation.

 Everybody here has some kind of weakness.

 All of us fall short in some categories.

 James and John—temper (love)

 Peter—outspoken coward (boldness)

 Elijah—discouragement (Standing alone)

 But we can overcome by some other countervailing quality.

 We can make up for it.

 In sports some players are known for their *defense*, and some are known for their *offense*.

 The turtle isn’t fast, but it is persistent.

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**I. ANTS—SUCCEED BY PREPARATION**

 Actually, ants are proportionally much stronger then we are, but the author isn’t speaking proportionally.

 He’s saying compared to a person there isn’t much to an ant.

 We can *step on* them, *catch* them and *put them* in a jar and there’s not much they can do in retaliation.

 Compared to us they aren’t strong.

 An ant brain has about 250,000 brain cells.

 A human brain has 10,000 million so a colony of 40,000 ants has collectively the same size brain as a human.

 But what does the ant do with its little brain that we can learn from?

 They prepares for harder seasons!

 They sense the danger of delay.
 The ant knows: Just because it is summer now, doesn’t mean winter isn’t coming.
 For the ant – it’s about forward *thinking* **and** *acting*!

 In places where ants hibernate they make granaries for themselves in the summer, and use these supplies as food in the winter months.

 They lay up for their future; they plan ahead.

 These days more than ever, people are planning ahead for their retirement.

 We need to plan for our heavenly retirement.

 Matthew 6:20, “*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*”

 Girls have hope chests.

 Boys have tool chests.

 You see, the man who does not look forward and prepare for the day and hour when some special demand will be made upon him; must go down.

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 Trials will come.

 The devil is walking “to and fro”.

 We must all stand before God.

 Ephesians 5:16, “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*”

 We need to be buying up opportunities to serve God.

 When the ravening lions lack and suffer hunger, the laborious ants have plenty!

 They succeed by *foresight* and *preparation*.

**II. CONIES (ROCK BADGERS)—SUCCEED BY HAVING A PLACE OF PROTECTION**

 The coney is about the size of a rabbit.

 They live in companies, and choose ready-made clefts in the rocks for their homes.

 Psalm 104:18, “*The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.*”

 The coney is *aware* of its own weaknesses.

 They don’t have the intelligence of the ant, but their instinct leads them to live among the rocks, and hide in *dark* caves and *inaccessible* crevices.
 It realizes it must depend on something greater than itself for *safety* and *security*.

 Their refuge in the rocks gives them a security beyond that of stronger creatures.

 You see, by making its home among the rocks, it puts the eagle in danger also, because when hunting their prey they swoop down like lightning at speeds of up to 80 miles per hour or more. At those incredible speeds, minor miscalculations among the rocks could mean the eagle’s life. And so when the eagle comes after the badger in the rocks, it tends to come in at a much slower rate of speed, or takes a different angle of approach, either of which allows the badger a longer time frame of warning. Thus alerted, the badger has time to *skip* and *scurry* across the rocks, where it knows every *nook* and *cranny*, and finds a safe place to avoid the danger.

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 It goes to the ROCK!

 The tenant is *weak*, but the habitation is *strong*.

 You have to have an **evacuation route**!
 Look in a hotel – you see on the door – an evacuation route in case of a fire.

 Will the fire happen? Not often – but the plan needs to be in place!
What is your ESCAPE?
Will it be the bottle?
Will it be the TV?
Will it be the friends?
Will it be the psychologist?
- Or will it be your Prayer closet?
 Matthew 6:6, “*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*”

 Too many people put themselves in places of temptation by thinking that they can stand.

 We are a feeble folk and a weak folk.

 This working of the law of self-preservation says to us, “*Beware! Be not self-confident!*”

 I Corinthians 10:12, “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*”

 In this battle with Satan, the world, and the flesh never be ashamed or afraid to run into the Rock of Ages.

 Joseph ran.

 David said in Psalm 61:2-3, “*From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* 3 *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*”

**III. LOCUSTS—SUCCEED BY PARTICIPATION**

 Locusts are the most frequently mentioned insect in the Bible.

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 It was locust which invaded Egypt in the 8th plague that Moses called down from heaven.

 In Leviticus 11, Locusts and grasshoppers are listed as the only insects that the Israelites were permitted to eat.

 And if you remember your New Testament you’ll recall that locusts were a major part of John the Baptist’s diet.

 They succeed in their destructiveness by organization.

 They have no king, yet they show *discipline*, *guidance*, and *order*.

 Locust swarms can vary from one square mile to several hundred square miles.

 Enormous!
 A large swarm of desert locusts can consume 20,000 tons of vegetation a day.

 They completely devastate the lands that they visit.

 They don’t waste time by flying hither and thither, and by opposing one another.

 Sometimes we as the church of Jesus Christ spend so much time *arguing* and *fighting* each other that we can’t get anything done.

 And I’m not talking about standing up for what is right, but about petty jealousies and pride.

 The cause of Christ will best triumph when all Christians move together in harmony.

 A single individual can easily be crushed, but yet it can gain immense force by uniting with others.

 Our services are so much better when everyone seems to come in on the same page.

 Jesus gathered twelve disciples – not just one leader.
 Look at the diversity of activity in the early church:

 Peter preached the first sermon.
 James pastored the first church.

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 Paul took the gospel to the Gentiles.
 John received the end time revelation.
 Steven was a deacon and the first martyr!

 Nehemiah 4:16-17, “*And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.* 17 *They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.*”

 I Samuel 14:6-7, “*And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.* 7 *And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.*”

**IV. SPIDERS—SUCCEED BY PERSISTENCE**

 As small as they are, and as easy to catch and crush, spiders are *agile* and *clever* enough to make their way into the very palace of a king and dwell there.

 The spider is found in palaces because he can stick to the wall, and he can run into unlooked-for-places out of the way of his pursuer.

 If one well-spun web is swept away, it immediately begins to make another one.

 The spider never gives up until you kill it.

 Mark 13:13, “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*”

 Ephesians 6:13, “*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*”

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 It is a great thing to be able to hold on.

 Micah 7:8a, “*Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise;*”

 Failure doesn’t have to be final; neither does it have to be fatal.

 Day after day, in his voyage across the trackless Atlantic Ocean, Columbus wrote in his log, “*We sailed westward, which was our course.*”

 Even a postage stamp is successful by sticking to its job until it reaches its destination.

 Proverbs 18:16, “*A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.*”

 All of us have gifts and talents that God has given us.

 Sometimes our talents get *abused*, *taken advantaged of*, but we are still responsible to use them and perfect them for God.

 When God finds us faithful during those times God will take our talents and use them and *bless* others, and our gift will make room for us.

 If we are going to grace the palaces of Heaven we are going to have to have a *determination* and a *persistency* about us.

**CON:**

 Let us learn from the lessons about God’s little creatures.

 We can offset our weaknesses.

 Men scoffed at Copernicus for saying the earth revolves around the sun.

 Men ridiculed Galileo for scientific ideas now held or truth.

 The first steamboat was known as “Fulton’s Folly”.

 Louis Pasteur was persecuted by scientific leaders of his day.

 These all considered opposition, not as a deterrent, but as a challenge.

 Weak men excuse their inactivity by reacting to their difficulties; while strong men regard them as furnishing an occasion for extra exertion.

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