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From: emonjimbo@msn.com
Date: Tue, 28 Sep 2010 06:30:06 -0400
Subject: [exsa_usa] MAN PROPOSES, GOD DISPOSES!

If, like me, you had hair in your armpits when Pa AHIDJO was in office, then you are old enough to be familiar with his signature "5 Year Development Plans" which were drawn up to see to the economic and social development of "The Fatherland". While this type and extent of planning ahead may make sense for a nation, I have my doubts as to how well this notion applies to our personal lives. I am not about to sit here and tell you with a straight face that it is wrong to make plans or to plan ahead, but I have to say that I believe there is such a thing as "OVER PLANNING"! Here's what I mean: When you have a "Plan **W**" just in case plans "A" to "V" do not work out, there is certainly a problem somewhere! Our average life span according to Psalm 90:10 is "Three Score years and 10"(70) or "Four Score" (80), so What, in the name of sanity, are you doing with this huge EXCEL SPREADSHEET that goes up to the year 3015 occupying valuable space on your computer desktop??!! By the way, far more "dangerous" than the simple act of "Over Planning", is the "OVER TRUSTING" in the plans once we've made them, to the point that we overlook or forget the fact that there is **A MASTER PLANNER** whose SOVEREIGN WILL overrides ANY blueprint or road map we could possibly establish for our lives! No wonder many of us are disappointed and even bitter about the way our lives have "turned out", and no wanda the legendary "BEATLE" John Lennon's quote "LIFE IS WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU ARE BUSY MAKING OTHER PLANS" rings so true!

Why don't we look at this "OVER PLAN-PLAN" affair from a Biblical standpoint. My clear impression is that God just doesn't "dig it"! The more I delve into scripture, the more it seems obvious to me that He is a "ONE DAY AT A TIME"- "RELY ON ME TO PROVIDE" – "LEAVE THE FUTURE TO ME" – "STAY AWAY FROM THE NGAMBE MAN & THE CRYSTAL BALL" kind of OGA, and I certainly intend to provide you with as many Biblical references and incidents as these 2 fingers of mine can type in the next 30 to 45 minutes, to support my stance:

1. MOSES IN DEH BURNING BUSH: When God called Moses, He simply told him (in Exodus 3:12):

¹⁰Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses had his doubts, questions, fears and excuses to which God's response was basically:

¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say."

What God clearly did NOT do is tell Moses how everything was going to turn out ahead of time!!! ZERO TIME TABLE OR PROSPECTUS FOR MOSES! God had 10 plagues in store and well lined up for Moses to unleash on the people of Egypt but NEVER ONCE did he tell Moses ahead of time what the next plague was going to be, as in: Day 1: Water to Blood; Day 2: Frogs; Day 3: Lice ... Day 6: Boils, etc. Papa Moses no be get de luxury say make e wake'up for morning time, stretch e skin, go for e laptop see say e get "**YAWEH (not YAHHOO) MAIL**" wit detailed instructions for the day, to talk much less of the month or year!! NOT AT ALL!

Every single time, Poor 80 year old and stuttering 'MO had to carry his "sitick" and go before Pharaoh and trust that the GOD who sent him would "come through" and tell him what to do RIGHT THERE AND THEN! I dare you to count the number of times the words "AND THE LORD SPAKE/SAID UNTO MOSES"

are featured in the book of Exodus! You no go fit! You go tire before you even reach de 20th time, and the obvious reason why those words appear so many times is because God gave Moses **ON THE SPOT** instructions!! If you still don't get it, just go back and read the story of THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA. Na right in front of de big-big wata, with the grumbling, complaining and PANICKING Israelites all around him that God told him to "lift up thou thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea and divide it", and dear Moses knew better than to ask God: "You no be fit tell me since for deh burning bush say na so e go be, make mah heart no dey cut-cut so?"

2. MANNA: Do you remember how the "MANNA THING" went down in deh wilderness?? Let me, (very gladly), refresh your memory with a DIRECT QUOTE from the Bible:

⁴Then said the LORD unto Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather **a certain rate every day**, that I may put them to the proof, whether they will walk in My law, or no.

God fed his people with Manna on a DAILY, not weekly or monthly basis! Interestingly, some "OVER PLAN-PLAN" Israelites had problems with this "one day at a time" method and tried to keep a doggie bag or 2 in deh banda. Here's what happened:

¹⁹**Moses told them not to keep any overnight.** ²⁰**Some of them disobeyed, but the next morning what they kept was stinking and full of worms, and Moses was angry.**

3. THE LORD'S PRAYER: In the New Testament, Jesus comes along and re-enforces the exact same notion when He teaches His disciples and us to pray: **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**! God's provision for us is apparently NOT a purchase in bulk affair à la Costco, Sam's Mart or BJ's, which is why, I guess, it is said in Lamentations 3:23 that HIS MERCIES ARE **NEW EVERY MORNING!**

4. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Most of us hear "SERMON ON THE MOUNT" and all that comes to mind is "THE BEATITUDES", (Matthew 5) and/or "THE LORD'S PRAYER" (Matthew 6) but one of the Main Themes of that Glorious Sermon (which, by the way, stretches from Matthew 5-7) is the "DO NOT WORRY" theme in Chapter 7. Instead of struggling to explain anything, I will let THE PREACHER of that Sermon speak to you in His own words:

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

5. THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL: If you don't think Jesus made a very strong case against the "Over Plan-Plan" theory in His Sermon on the Mount, re-visit the Parable he told about The Rich Fool! De tori no long sef so here it is "reproduit dans son intégralité" – as in, in its entirety!

¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to **store** my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will **store all my crops and my goods**. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "**Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.**"' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?

Contrary to what many think, I believe the issue with this man is NOT the mere fact that he was wealthy. Abraham, Joseph, Job, Boaz and of course Solomon were all "filthy rich" and Jesus never referred to any of them as "FOOLS". In fact, Joseph, as Prime Minister of Egypt also did the same storing up of grain this Rich Fool did, so what's the difference? I'm convinced it is MOTIVE and INTENTION. When Joseph stored the grain, his motive was to save a whole Nation from starving to death, and this action of his was in reaction to a revelation FROM GOD (through the interpretation of Pharoah's dream), that there were going to be 7 years of famine coming. Actually, through this act, he saved not just Egypt but the Nation of Israel as well from wiped out by famine. Boaz provided for Ruth; Abraham was so unimpressed by the idea of wealth that he let "LANGA LOT" choose the better looking area to settle – which turned out, VERY IRONICALLY, to be the SODOM & GOMMORAH that God wiped out with a good douse of sulphur; Solomon built God a cam-and-see-wandas Temple for God; In contrast, WHAT WERE THE RICH FOOL'S PLANS? To eat, drink and be merry! Nowhere in His plans was God factored in, and we do the same when we rely totally on ENRON, WALL STREET, our 401Ks, etc., and forget who our REAL PROVIDER is, and what is our ULTIMATE DESTINATION, since we are just passing through this world which is NOT our home. (Help me here, Jim Reeves!)

What does God say in JEREMIAH 29:11?

¹¹ For I know the plans **I** have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

The Lord says HE knows the plans **HE** has for us; NOT the plans, schedules and time tables **WE** have drawn up for ourselves, as in "by de time ah wan reach 25, ah go don marry Barnabas, born me mah twins pikin dem: 1 boy, 1 girl"!!!

In conclusion, just this "REALITY CHECK" verse:

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT (Psalm 127:1)

and the reminder embedded in the "UNTO THE HILLS SONG"

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN5o4kYybVs>)

(whose lyrics are drawn from **PSALM 121**), that it is our Lord who preserves our "going out and our coming in from this time forth and even forever more"! NA SO-SO FOR E HAND ALL TING DEY!!

PEACE!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo