

August 15, 2020

Hello Brethren,

In 1964 Walt Disney commissioned two of his employees, song-writer brothers Robert and Richard Sherman to compose a catchy song for the 1965 World's Fair in New York City. What they thought would be a minor part of the Fair soon to be forgotten turned out very much the opposite. The song is what some describe as an "ear worm", a tune that sticks in your mind almost to the point of distraction. And I suspect when I mention the title, the tune and lyrics will probably jump into your mind as well – and perhaps get stuck there the rest of the day! According to a report on [www.time.com](http://www.time.com) "It's A Small World" is the most publically performed song of all time. On the Disney properties alone it has been played more than 50 million times!

Other than giving you the answer to a Trivial Pursuit question, why would I bother to mention this musical factoid? Because one thing the coronavirus called COVID-19 has done for us is remind us how small the world really is. I'm not sure anyone could have imagined just seven months ago what that virus from China would do to the entire planet in a matter of weeks.

This never could have happened in generations past, but the prevalence and relative ease air travel today makes the rapid spread of a virus possible. In 2019 there were more than 4.54 billion passengers reported by the global airline industry. As passenger jets crisscrossed the globe, some of those people carried the virus with them, and began to spread it at every stop. With the news of it, panic set in and shut the world down. In just a few weeks the devastating economic impact was felt everywhere. I think we realized just how small our world has become.

Bible prophecy speaks of events that also show a very small world. Just reading again through the first six seals which are opened in Revelation 6 shows these dramatic and terrible events will be felt very quickly around the globe. The pale horse of verse 8 is described as taking the lives of 25% of mankind! At the current estimates of human population, that amounts to 1.9 BILLION human beings. To put that huge number in perspective, it is slightly more than the current total populations of China, the United States and all of Western Europe combined!

What we can know is that war, major disease epidemics and terrible famines will sweep around the entire world, impacting every continent, every nation and every ethnic group with horrifying results. Mankind will understand that it really is a small world as all of humanity suffers from the same things. Jesus Christ predicted that if God the Father would not decide to intervene in these nightmarish events, destruction on such an unbelievable scale would kill every man, woman and child on the planet. It would become the planet of the dead, and there would be no future for men.

The Fall Holy Days given to us by God show the reality of this terrible time, but their focus is really on what lies beyond. They remind us that there IS a future for men, and it will be so much better than anything we have ever experienced!

These Holy Days remind us that the only Power capable of bringing genuine peace to this earth – Jesus Christ – will arrive! His feet will at first land on the top of the Mount of Olives (Zechariah

14:4), and He will take over the governments of the world (Revelation 11:15; 19:16; etc.). He will have to step in by force to stop the war and remove those most responsible for all the death and destruction. And He will bind Satan and his allied demons where they can no longer cause havoc (Revelation 20:1-3).

But then He will begin to lovingly teach and care for the shattered remnant of humanity (Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:7). Some people today talk about a “one world government”, but we know such a thing will never happen by human hands, and anything created by men would never live up to the ideal or provide the satisfaction some may believe it would.

What Jesus Christ is going to bring to earth will be a one world government that WILL live up to every promise, and will be good for everyone! In the years to follow His return, peace, genuine happiness and a real satisfaction from life will come to all. Knowledge of God will be everywhere (Habakkuk 2:14).

When “It’s A Small World” was composed in 1964 the world was just backing away from the Cuban Missile Crisis, which threatened to launch a massive nuclear war. So the thought behind it was to look for a time when there would be peace, when everyone could get along and work for the same goals. No matter where we are, the nations are all interconnected, and what affects one area eventually impacts nearly everyone else.

We have seen how small the world is today because of a simple virus, and we will see just how small it is when men discover there is no place to hide, no place that is safe, no place to survive at all without God’s intervention.

Our loving Creator will end the death and destruction, and usher in real peace on earth. The picture the Sherman brothers and Walt Disney wanted to promote with that catchy little “ear worm” will finally happen. In fact, it will be so much greater than what they could have imagined.

So as we deal with the present trials and realities, don’t forget the future God has revealed. The Fall Holy Days help us focus on the promises God has made, and how wonderful it will eventually be for our small world.

Tomorrow my family and I will be in Van Buren for morning services, and then we’ll travel down to Mena for afternoon services. I wish you all a very good Sabbath!

Best regards,

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