

# SUDDEN HOPE VI

## *SUDDEN CHILDLIKENESS*

*“Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word...”*

Matthew 2:8

*<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”*

Luke 18:15-17

- I. Seven Lessons from children
  - A. Children have an extraordinary influence on others.
  - B. Children are open and trusting.
  - C. Children are humble and don't see class, color, or status.
  - D. Children are uninhibited and wholehearted.
  - E. Children are utterly dependent.
  - F. Children are flexible and not blinded by the Cataracts of racial prejudice.
  - G. Children don't know they can't trust/love everybody so they trust/love everybody.

## II. Three lessons from the manger

- A. We can recapture our childhood.
- B. We can rediscover simplicity.
- C. We can restore our innocence.

## III. Childlikeness and the belief for total reversals (Isaiah 11:6-9)

*<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

- A. Messiah will bring an utter reversal of nature and its working.
- B. A child will lead the predator and prey together; something for which adults could never believe.
- C. A reversal of nature (Lamb/Wolf, Goat/Leopard, Calf/Lion)