Title: “Lay People and the Immanuel Approach Part 1: World Changing Forces & Vision for the Church”

October 19, 2026

Greetings all,

Just a quick note to let you know about another essay that I have just updated and re-posted from our kclehman.com website: “Lay People and the Immanuel Approach Part 1: World Changing Forces & Vision for the Church.” (Available as a free download from the “Kclehman Website Archives” section of the Resources page: https://www.immanuelapproach.com/kclehman-com-website-archives/).

I have included an excerpt (below) as an appetizer.

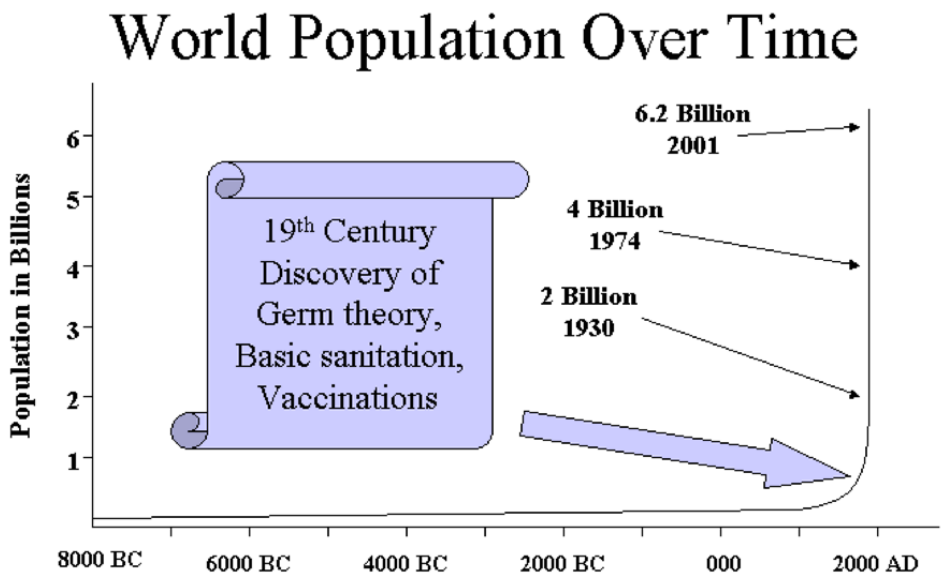
Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

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Excerpt from the essay “Lay People and the Immanuel Approach Part 1: World Changing Forces & Vision for the Church ”:

I. “World Changing Forces” – Microbial Theory and the Immanuel Approach:



A. Microbial theory, basic infectious illness prevention, and the population explosion: Germ theory, basic sanitation, vaccinations, and antibiotics provide an excellent example of how a few key discoveries can change the world:

The total population of the world has remained essentially constant for most of the history of mankind. The really short summary is that world population fluctuated between 10 million and 300 million for most of the last 10,000 years, never reaching 1 billion until the 19th century.

The biggest single factor in preventing sustained population growth has been infectious illness. Prior to the discovery of microbial theory in the 19th century, 50% of the people born into the world died before reaching the age of five, with infectious illness being the number one cause of death. An even more significant problem was infectious plague. Any time population became really dense, it was just a matter of time until an infectious-illness plague exploded in the dense population and quickly returned the population to previous low levels. Smallpox plagues and the black death in Europe are examples. This is also the best theory for the "mysterious" disappearance of the huge Inca civilization.

The 19th century discovery of microscopic organisms as the cause of infectious illness lead quickly to simple tools – basic sanitation, vaccinations, and antibiotics – that essentially eliminated infectious plague as the single biggest population limiter. After 10,000 years with no significant sustained population growth, the world population grew from about 1 billion in 1800 to 2 billion by 1930, 3 billion by 1960, 4 billion by 1974, 5 billion by the late 1980's, and 6.2 billion in 2011. Note that with infectious plagues out of the picture, this population growth occurred in spite of the biggest wars in human history. In my assessment, the discoveries of microbial theory, basic infectious illness prevention, and antibiotics have resulted in a population explosion that has changed the ecology of the entire planet in the space of 200 years. This is an example of how a small handful of strategic discoveries can change the whole world.

B. Immanuel Approach principles and tools: My perception is that the discovery of Immanuel Approach principles and tools for the church is analogous to the discovery of microbial theory, basic infectious illness prevention, and antibiotics for world population.

[1]"Population: Trends in World Population," Encyclopedia Britannica, Copyright 1994-1998; http://www.mukil.com/english/script/worldpopulation.htm 11/2/2001.