

Readings from the Word of God

10 May 2020

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

[Jesus said,] “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Secrets of Heaven §245

[Many passages] in the Word describe Jehovah God as not only turning his face away, being angry, punishing, and testing, but even killing — and, yes, cursing. This was in order to foster the belief that the Lord controls and arranges every last detail in the universe.... After accepting this very general idea, people would learn just how he controls and arranges things. They would see that he transforms the evil involved in punishment and in our ordeals into good.

Lamentations 3:33 (NKJV)

For [the Lord] does not afflict willingly,
Nor grieve the children of men.

Matthew 18:14 (NKJV)

[Jesus said,] “It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

Secrets of Heaven §8227:2

The belief also exists that bad things are attributable to the Divine because He permits them and does not take them away. And someone who permits something and does not take it away when he has the power to do so appears to will it and so to be the cause of it. But the Divine permits it because He cannot prevent it or take it away. The Divine wills only what is good; if therefore He were to prevent or remove bad things, [like] the miseries of punishment, vastation, persecution, temptation, and [other similar things], He would be willing something bad. For then the people who must suffer them could not have their faults corrected and evil would increase until it ruled over good.

The situation is like that with a king who acquits the guilty. He is the cause of the ill done by them subsequently in his kingdom, and he is the cause of the resulting lawlessness of others, not to mention that the evil person becomes more deeply immersed in evil. Therefore although a good and righteous king has the power to cancel punishments, yet he cannot, for if he cancels them he does not do what is good but what is bad. It should be recognised that all forms of punishment as well as of temptation in the next life have good as their end in view.

Secrets of Heaven §9940

The things which are from the Lord are either nearer to, or further away from Him; and they are said to be “from His will,” “from good pleasure,” “from leave,” and “from permission.” The things which are from His will are the nearest to Him; those which are from His good pleasure are somewhat further away from Him; those which are from leave are still further away than that; and those which are from permission are the furthest from Him. But each degree [or level] contains countless aspects which are distinct from those which are in any other degree; and these

countless things are secrets of heaven, only a few of which fall within the range of human understanding.

Secrets of Heaven §6663e

[N]othing can take place... unless good can come out of it.

John 14:21 (NKJV)

[Jesus said,] “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”