

# Readings from the Word of God

## Sunday, 10 November 2024

### **Joshua 24:14-18**

“Now therefore, fear Jehovah, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve Jehovah! And if it seems evil to you to serve Jehovah, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.”

So the people answered and said: “Far be it from us that we should forsake Jehovah to serve other gods; for Jehovah our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And Jehovah drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve Jehovah, for He is our God.”

### **Judges 21:25**

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

### **Jeremiah 31:33-34**

No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, “Know Jehovah,” for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says Jehovah.

### ***Heaven and Hell §550***

Evil spirits are severely punished in the world of spirits in order that by means of punishments they may be deterred from doing evil. This also appears to be from the Lord; and yet nothing of punishment there is from the Lord, but is from the evil itself; since evil is so joined with its own punishment that the two cannot be separated. For the infernal crew desire and love nothing so much as doing evil, especially inflicting punishments and torment upon others; and they maltreat and inflict punishments upon everyone who is not protected by the Lord. When, therefore, evil is done from an evil heart, because it thereby discards all protection from the Lord, infernal spirits rush upon the one who does the evil, and inflict punishment.

### ***Divine Providence §148***

All of these who serve of their own accord in order to gain their freedom compel themselves; and when they compel themselves, they act in freedom in accordance with their reason, but from an interior freedom which regards exterior freedom as a servant. We have added this to confirm the fact that to compel oneself is not contrary to rationality and freedom.

### ***Heaven and Hell §218***

From all this it can be seen what the governors there are, namely, that they are such as are preeminent in love and wisdom, and therefore desire the good of all, and from wisdom know how to provide for the realization of that good. Such governors do not

domineer or dictate, but they minister and serve (to serve meaning to do good to others from a love of the good, and to minister meaning to see to it that the good is done); nor do they make themselves greater than others, but less, for they put the good of society and of the neighbour in the first place, and put their own good last....