

Readings from the Word of God

27 September 2020

Exodus 2:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. ² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a good child, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, tarred it with tar and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. ⁶ And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had pity on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. ⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Secrets of Heaven §10225:1, 3-6.

[F]rom earliest childhood to extreme old age a person passes inwardly through a number of states....

[T]he first state [from birth to five years old] is a state of ignorance and also of innocence within ignorance.... While this state exists the inner levels of the mind are being put into shape for the use they will serve, and consequently are not yet opened up. Only the most external levels, those of the senses, are open; and when these alone are open ignorance exists.

[T]he second state [from five to twenty years old] is one in which instruction is received and knowledge is acquired.... This is not yet a state in which understanding exists because the young person does not arrive at any conclusion by themselves; neither by themselves do they draw any distinction between one truth and another, nor even between truth and falsity, only with the help of others. Their thought and speech consist purely of matters contained in their memory, thus solely of acquired knowledge; nor do they see or perceive whether something is true unless they take it on trust from their teacher, consequently because another says it is true.

The third state [from twenty to sixty years old] however is called a state in which understanding exists because the person now thinks for themselves, drawing distinctions and arriving at conclusions; and the conclusions are theirs, not another's. At this time belief begins; for belief is not a person's own until they have confirmed what they believe with ideas that are the product of their own thinking. Till then the belief is not theirs but another's within them; for till then they trust in the person, not in the matter of belief. This comes about according to how far and in what kind of way the inner levels have been opened; and

how far they are open depends on how far the person leads a life looking to heaven and not to the world.

The last state [from sixty years old and up] however is one of wisdom and of innocence within wisdom, which exists when a person is no longer concerned just to gain an understanding of truths and forms of good, but is concerned to make them part of their will and life; for then the person has wisdom. And how far that person is able to make them part of their will and life depends on how much innocence they have, that is, on how far they believe that, left to themselves, they have no wisdom at all, but that whatever wisdom they have is derived from the Lord, and also on how far they love this to be so.

Secrets of Heaven §4063:3

So that a person may be led from the state of the old self into that of the new, worldly passions have to be cast aside and heavenly affections assumed. This is accomplished by countless means known to the Lord alone.... When therefore a person is converted from an old self into a new one, that is, when they are regenerated, it does not take place in an instant as some people believe, but over many years. Indeed the process is taking place throughout the person's whole life right to its end. For the person's passions have to be rooted out and heavenly affections implanted, and they have to have a life conferred on them which they did not possess previously, and of which in fact they scarcely had any knowledge previously. Since therefore the person's states of life have to be changed so drastically they are inevitably maintained for a long time in an intermediate kind of good which has aspects of both worldly affections and heavenly ones.

Secrets of Heaven §4063:4

[I]f anyone thinks it over he can also recognise that each phase of life has its particular delights. He can recognise that by means of these he is introduced by consecutive stages into those which belong to the next phase and that such delights have served to bring him through to that next phase, till at length he is brought to the delight of intelligence and wisdom in old age.

Secrets of Heaven §3183

[A]s soon as anyone is born he is brought into a state of innocence. This state then serves as the basis of all other states and is the inner core of them all....

Secrets of Heaven §6750

[F]actual knowledge is what those who are being regenerated must learn first, for that knowledge is the groundwork for things that compose the understanding, and the understanding is what receives the truth of faith... and the truth of faith what receives the good of charity. From this it may be seen that factual knowledge constitutes the first level to be laid down when a person is being regenerated.