

# Readings from the Word of God

## 8 November 2020

### **Matthew 6:25-26 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

### ***Divine Love and Wisdom §344:1-2***

To settle the argument, a beautiful bird appeared to Sir Hans, and he was told to examine it to see whether it differed in any least particular from a similar bird on earth. Sir Hans held it in his hand, examined it, and said that there was no difference. He was told to do this, because he knew that it was only the affection of some angel in his vicinity represented as a bird, and that it would vanish or cease to exist along with the angel’s affection, as also happened.

As a result of this experiment Sir Hans was convinced that nature contributes nothing whatever to the productions of plants and animals, but that they are attributable solely to that which flows from the spiritual world into the natural one.

*[For more about the implications of this passage, watch the Rev. Andrew Heilman’s presentation at the Theistic Science Symposium at Bryn Athyn College in 2019, “Conservation is Perpetual Creation” here: <https://bit.ly/38jB15F>. Or read the article version here: <https://bit.ly/36ceODY>.]*

## ***Divine Love and Wisdom §170***

The grand purpose, or the purpose of all elements of creation, is an eternal union of the Creator with the created universe. This is not possible unless there are subjects in which His divinity can be at home, so to speak, subjects in which it can dwell and abide. For these subjects to be His dwellings and homes they must be receptive of his love and wisdom, as if they were doing this of their own accord, subjects who will with apparent autonomy raise themselves toward the Creator and unite themselves with Him. In the absence of this reciprocity, there is no union.

These subjects are human beings who can raise themselves and unite with apparent autonomy. ....

Through this union, the Lord is present in every work He has created, since in the last analysis everything has been created for the sake of human beings. As a result, the functions of all created things rise level by level from the lowest things to us, and through us to God the Creator, their source....

## ***Apocalypse Explained §1199:2***

[T]here is not a hair or fibre of wool on any beast, or a filament of a quill or feather upon any bird, or a point of a fin or scale on any fish, that is not from the life of their soul, thus that is not from the spiritual clothed by the natural.

## ***Apocalypse Explained* §1215:3-4**

Nature produces nothing from itself, but merely in the process of production serves the spiritual... as an instrumental cause serves its principal cause, or as a dead force serves its living force. This makes clear how mistaken those are who ascribe the generations of animals and the productions of plants to nature. This is the same as ascribing magnificent and splendid works to the tool and not to the workman....

## **Genesis 1:20-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

## **Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)**

[Jesus said,] “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

## **Isaiah 11:6-9 (NKJV)**

- 6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.
- 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea.