

# Readings from the Word of God

13 June 2021

## 2 Kings 6:18-23 (NKJV, modified)

<sup>18</sup> So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to Jehovah, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

<sup>19</sup> Now Elisha said to them, “This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” But he led them to Samaria.

<sup>20</sup> So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, “Jehovah, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” And Jehovah opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

<sup>21</sup> Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”

<sup>22</sup> But he answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” <sup>23</sup> Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

## ***True Christianity §758***

If our rational faculty is earthly in nature, it is capable of supporting any notion it wishes to. It is capable of giving support equally to something false and to something true. ....

If our rational faculty is spiritual in nature, though, it is quite the opposite. How do we develop spiritual rationality? We turn to the Lord and he gives us a love for what is true.

## ***Sacred Scripture §59***

The first task [of people who seek enlightenment when they read the Word] is to put together a body of teaching for themselves from the literal meaning of the Word. That is how they light a lamp in order to go further. Once they have put together a body of teaching and lit the lamp, they see the Word in the light of that lamp.

However, people who have not put together a body of teaching for themselves first look to see whether the theological perspective offered by others and generally accepted does in fact agree with the Word; and they accept what agrees and dissent from what does not. That is how they form their body of teaching, and through their body of teaching, their faith.

## ***Secrets of Heaven §7298:2***

[I]t should be recognised that it is in accordance with the laws of order that no one should become convinced of the truth instantaneously, that is, should instantaneously be made so sure of the truth that he is left in no doubt at all about it. The reason for this is that when truth is impressed on a person in that kind of way, he becomes so fully convinced of it that it cannot be broadened in any way or qualified in any way. Truth like this is

represented in the next life as that which is hard, not allowing good into itself to make it pliable.

This goes to explain why in the next life as soon as some truth is presented through plain experience to good spirits, some opposing idea giving rise to doubt is presented. In this way they are led to think and ponder over whether it is indeed a truth, gather reasons in support of it, and so introduce that truth into their minds by the use of reason. This enables their spiritual vision in respect of that truth to be broadened, seeing even into the ideas that are opposed to it. They therefore see and perceive with their understanding every characteristic of the truth, and from this are able to let in the influences coming from heaven as the situation demands; for truths take varying forms as dictated by circumstances.

### **Joshua 24:13-15 (NKJV, modified)**

<sup>13</sup> “I have given you a land for which you did not labour, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.” <sup>14</sup> “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! <sup>15</sup> 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.”

### **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## **Joshua 1:8-9 (NKJV, modified)**

<sup>8</sup> “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go.”