

## *Higher Thoughts*

### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

Seeking to understand all things about the ways of the Lord is futile. His plans and reasons are beyond our understanding. (TLSB)

Luther writes: “The thoughts of God are far above all our thoughts. In our heart we would never have gotten the idea of a free forgiveness of sins. Reason does not admit that righteousness is free without merits.”

The exiles couldn’t even begin to understand how Cyrus, another brutal dictator, would be their key to returning back to their homeland.

God calls us to live by faith, not by sight. His plans and reasons are beyond the comprehension of mortal man. He settles accounts in such a strange way. We seek revenge to get even, but the Servant (Jesus), despised and reviled, offers forgiveness and love. We hold grudges and withhold grace, but God takes no pleasure in being vindictive and delights when the wicked repent and live.

These Gospel gifts are fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Peter states: “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” If it was senseless to oppose God’s restoring work through Cyrus, how much more foolish is it to disagree with God’s plan of salvation now fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

The ways and thoughts of humans are wicked and evil by nature. All thoughts that flow from us are nothing like God’s thoughts. The deepest thinkers of the ages cannot achieve the high and lofty ways of God or understand God. Left alone and without God’s Word no human can imagine that God would send a Savior to die for unworthy sinners. God’s grace remains a mystery to human intelligence and research. Yet God does make it known to us in his Word.

When Job had finished spouting about his rightness where his condition concerned, God spoke (Job 38:1-40:2). Below are some verses that illustrate the superior-ness of God’s thoughts when they are compared to Job or us.

“4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 “Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb, 9 when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, 10 and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, 11 and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?”

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you using your super-human knowledge in all you do. Amen