

Historical Interpretation

Wisdom 11:23-26

23 But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent. 24 For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. 25 How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? 26 You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

These are the lines from the book of wisdom. This book is named as wisdom as it treats all the good things in wisdom with care. The means of acquiring wisdom, the way to nurture it, the result it produces are elaborately discussed in this book. Narrated in the person of King Solomon, this unique book of wisdom contains various comments of King Solomon regarding wisdom. It was not confirmed that who wrote this book. This book is full of instructions and intelligent citation from the King. It contains knowledge regarding various excellence of Christ's coming, passion, his resurrection and all other Christian mysteries.

Wisdom is a blessing. It cannot be acquired. It is God gifted thing. A person who is bestowed with wisdom is actually blessed. No things on heaven and earth is as precious as wisdom.

Here is presented historical interpretation of the verses 23-26 of stanza 11 from the book.

23 But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent.

The pronoun in this verse is directed to God. It is God you have mercy on all things and have patience and greatness to overlook constantly committing sins.

This line is describing the greatness of God towards the humankind. Starting with His praise of God this verse continues with the kindness and mercy He bestow upon the humanity. God is merciful, kind and generous to his creature. He provide them with all things. He never leave them unattended. His mercy encircles all the creatures from all directions. He helps, grows, bestows, and provides for nothing in return. His greatness never exhausts for the well-being humanity.

On the other hand, human being are prone to sins. They often involve in sins they are prohibited by the God's decree. They forget God's decree and willfully commits sins. God has set punishment for committing sins. He would caught everybody for his or her sin in the day of resurrection. He would not spare anybody for any sin they ever committed. However, He does not punish sinners immediately after they caught in committing any sin. They are given chances for their return to God. Verily, people do return to their God in shame and repentance. They realize their fault and guilt, repent utterly to God; God accept their repentance with great mercy for He is merciful and forgiving.

This is understandable. In spite of all the prohibitions and restrictions, in this world of temptation and greed, sin and vice, people would commit sins, no matter how small or large they are. If they were punished immediately without providing a chance to repent and return, it would have been a massacre. There is no point in sending people on earth and punish them randomly for every sin they commit.

Another point of view to this verse can give insight into the various other perspectives of God's course of actions and attitude. God is not in haste to take revenge or punish for not abiding by his decree and prohibition. Haste and hassle are human nature. The very nature of God is something different from the human nature. He overlooks and ignores people's sin for their own realization that they did something wrong. Common sense tells us that this perspective towards His creature clearly makes Him God. People are sinners and they are repentant. Both are the virtues of human being. The response to a sin should not be instant as in a matter of time; sins can be washed away by virtue.

24 For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it.

This verse is pointing towards the vastness of God's love for everything. God has created everything in this universe. There is not a single thing exists that has not been created by God. The main characteristic of creator is that he loves his entire creature. Creator never creates or nurture a creation unless he loves it. God loves his entire creature; all things in this universe from soil to water, wind to dust, tree to animal, sun to moon, life to death, sea to river, planet to earth. His love for these creatures are recognizable. No things in this mundane would have existed if God never love them or create them. The existence and flourish of a creature is dependent largely on the will of God.

We can see this verse from another point of view. God has created thing he loves to create for the fulfillment his own will and intentions. Everything gets its existence because God wanted to have them take a part in his entire creation. If he detested anything, he would never have created that thing. Not a single creature is capable of bearing God's hatred. The whole universe is lovable to God and are finding itself in existence because God loved it to.

This characteristic is Godly. People can create things that they do not love for their livelihood or for fulfillment of their negative emotions or for the mysterious contribution of their psychology. They can love things and hate things they have created. However, in this respect God is unique. He create things for love. He is unbiased and at liberty to create things. He never create things for livelihood or for praise or anything, which man could ever have imagined. This gives him the power to create things of his likings. As God foster loves for all creature, it leads us to a simple conclusion that no such thing exist that is hated by God.

25 How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved?

In this verse, few actions of God are being revealed thorough question. Actually, these questions are affirmation of God's capability in certain areas. To investigate let us start with the first part of the verse that states that everything that is endured are actually the materialization of God's will.

In this materialistic world, nothing can happen without the will of God. From dusk to dawn myriads of occurrences, happen that all are the decree and intention of God. There is not a single leaf falls without direct instruction form God. Every animal, insect lives, dies at the order of God.

We are often seeing for God's resolve—especially when we are in a tough condition. We surprise, what will occur to me now? Does God want me here or I should go somewhere else? The only method to distinguish for sure is to do what He asks us to preform exactly now—the obligation of the current moment—and delay for God to disclose the next step.

As we abide by what we know, you will be reinforced to yield the next footstep and the next. Systematically, one-step at a time. That is in what way we acquire to pace with God.

However, we say, "Assume I yield the first step. What will occur succeeding?" That is God's will. Our duty and task is to follow this day and discard the upcoming to Him. The psalmist says our paces are "ordered by the Lord" (37:23). ("The Holy Bible: containing the Old Testament and the New", 1702) This day's course is all we want. Tomorrow's direction is useless today for us as it is yet to happen. George MacDonald said, "We do not understand the next page of God's lesson book; we see only the one before us. Nor shall we be allowed to turn the leaf until we have learned its lesson."

If we become conscious about ourselves with God's will and follow every day the directions and cautions He offers, if we pace by confidence and step out in the route of submission, we will find that God will lead us through this time. As Jesus put it, "Tomorrow will worry about its own things" (Matt. 6:34).

The last of the verse shows the future planning of God that has been thought of today. Everything that happened, happens and would happen in our lives are the decrees of God. He planned everything beforehand. The world and lives are mere his plot. We are just acting in roles He have created for us. ("Matthew 6:34 ESV - "Therefore do not be anxious about - Bible Gateway")

This mysterious and unknown thing which we call God's will is the way of speaking of God with us. Here are interpretation of the talking:

God actually speaks thorough the occurrences. All that good and bad things happen in our lives are actually telling us about God's will. If something happens bad to us, we often worry and become stress. Actually bad things happen in life as a reminder for us to return to God. When God want us to think of his grace on us He imposes difficulties and hardship on us to let us think about the good time and to remember God's mercy. Therefore, bad things should not be scolded God for but should be remember God for.

On the other hand, Good things happen in life as a response to our good deeds. It is God's way to reward ourselves for something we did right. None of the good or bad things happens at random. All are God's will what He planned for us hundreds of year beforehand.

God also speaks to us through opportunities. If we accept, the opportunities God provide us with, we can please Him as if we are accepting his mercy indeed. God presents His mercy in disguise of opportunities. It is His way of telling us that he is happy with us. God works through the open doors of opportunities. If one door closes, God open another but we have to be able to identify opportunities. We have to identify true opportunities and chances and distinguish them from everyday occurrence in order to be able to identify opportunities provided by God for us. God does not speak us directly rather through tiny things often ignored and unaccepted. (Johnson & St. John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minn.), 2005)

26 You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living.

This verse is complementary to the first verse. Here it is said that God spare everything for he can catch everything if he wants and if he wish to for all the creatures belong to Him. However, he actually spares everything to show His broadness of mind and to provide everything with chance to live their lives fully and happily without the feeling of captivated. Since God can catch and take anything at any time He wants, He had better spare everything for future. As He loves full living He spare for everyone to give the opportunity of full living. There is no wonder in it. It is God's trait to spare things and to provide things liberty of living full life without any bound.

If we thing it in other way that God sent us in this materialistic world for testing us, then the whole thing makes much of sense. There would have been no point in sending us here and imposing and keeping us captivated in His will and then testing us for our deeds. Now that He sent us and imparted us full liberty to do anything at our own discreet we are responsible for our deeds to God. It is the test, the test of using and managing our will and intension in a way God wants us to.

It is wonderful to know that God loves us. The best blessing of human life is God's love. Human being is a lovable creature of God. He loves them most. It is believed that the whole universe is created for the human. God's love is around us from the very beginning of our lives. (Hoard, 1673)

God is our guardian and protector, yet He is our examiner in this earth. We should abide by God's instructions to live our lives fully and to take the opportunities to become among the successful servants of God. We should appreciate God's blessing in every phases of our lives. God is promised to increase our blessings if we appreciate it and be thankful to Him for what he gave us. We should also be prepared for the good and bad things happen in our lives without being reactive as everything happens in life happens for good.

References

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