

God and Logic

Isaiah 55:9

For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Is God smart?

Most people's immediate response is, "Certainly, yes! Look at all He made! Who could be such an inventor but the greatest genius!"

Ah, well, our question is answered, then.

Or is it?

According to the verse above, God's thoughts are quite above ours. Once again, most people agree with this. But the way they agree with it is in seeing God as **incomprehensible**. His intelligence is *so superior* to ours, there is no way for us to really relate to it. We can't expect God to be logical. Logic is binding. God's thoughts can't be bound.

But that sets us back to asking again: Is God really smart? If He is, why can't He make Himself understood? If we're supposed to believe a written word He's given us, how can we relate to one which obeys no rules of communication or logic?

The intelligence most people attribute to God is, in reality, more like that of an idiot-savant than a true genius. God, the idiot-savant, carved the cosmos most wonderfully; but He can't explain it. He's more the art-

ist than the scientist, more the poet than the essay-writer.

In fact, God's intelligence, infinite and transcendent as it is, is as detailed as an electron and, as far as what He's written, *quite accessible*. How could the maker of the human mind and the inventor of language fail to make them adequate for communication?

From the way Jesus speaks, logic is a very God-like tool. It is orderly. It assumes order and underlying truth. Scriptures are apparently so tightly constructed in their logic that seemingly minor insinuations are considered quite firm:

Luke 20:37, 38 But that the dead are raised, even Moses pointed out at the Bush, when he called *the Lord the God of Abraham*, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. For He is not God of *the dead*, but of the living. For all live to Him.

By this, Jesus corrected the faulty understanding of the Sadducees, who didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Notice the logic Jesus uses. Moses addressed God as the God of Abraham; therefore, Abraham must still be alive. The resurrection is therefore a reality.

Also notice this: Jesus didn't say, "Hey, I was in Heaven and I saw Abraham. Take My word for it." Jesus was quite willing to settle a critical doctrinal point by Scripture, *and* by a subtle grammatical insinuation from it, no less.

How many modern Christians would miss Jesus' point altogether?

How many would actually think Jesus was almost being slippery by using such a subtle point?

We have been well-trained to think that God seeks an exemption from logic and reason. He's just the boss; you don't question Him.

True, we don't question His authority, but how do we honor His authority without making heads or tails of it? If He's incomprehensible while attempting communication, He's not God. If God is smart, He can communicate intelligently.

Lay firm hold on Scriptural concepts. That's what they're meant for. The Divine mind was able to construct a Word that's an adequate and permanent foundation for all truth for all time, down to the letter.

ADDENDUM

So what does the verse in the box at the beginning mean? Read the whole passage:

Isa 55:6 Seek Jehovah while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the man of vanity his thoughts, and let him return to Jehovah, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

Isa 55:8 For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways, says Jehovah.

Isa 55:9 For *as* the heavens are high from the earth, so My

ways are high from your ways, and My thoughts from your thoughts.

Isa 55:10 For as the rain and the snow comes down from the heavens and do not return there, except it waters the earth and make it bring forth and bud, and give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

Isa 55:11 so shall My Word be, which goes out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in what I sent it to do!

Verse 7 is the key. Very simply, God's thoughts are higher than ours IN THAT He will pardon whom we would not. Nothing is being said against God's comprehensibility. In fact, verses nine through eleven assure us that His words will have a very definite connection to whatever end is accomplished.

By the way, did you know that one of those ends is hardening men in their sin? In the Isaiah passage above, He's speaking of softening, but elsewhere, Isaiah speaks about God's hardening word, as does Paul in a very similar passage:

2Co 2:14 But thanks *be* to God, the *One* always leading us in triumph in Christ, and *the One revealing* through us the odor of the knowledge of Him in every place.

2Co 2:15 For we are a sweet smell to God because of

Christ in those being saved, **and in those being lost;**

2Co 2:16 to the one, an odor of death unto death, and to the other, an odor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?