

# Man's Thoughts Are Not Our Father's Thoughts

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Recorded on February 20, 2021

I think most of you have heard of Ted Williams. Maybe our younger ones haven't, but Ted Williams was a Hall of Fame baseball player that died in 2002. He was one of the most natural hitters that people have ever seen. He was a nineteen-year-old All Star. Slightly under half the time he came to bat, he got on base by one way or another and that is still the highest of all time; even in this day. He twice left baseball to serve as a Navy pilot; the first time in World War II and the second time in Korea. Then he came back to play baseball. He had an interesting quote about people, he said:

*If you don't think too good, don't think too much.*

I think one of the biggest problems in human history—mankind's history—is that man does not think correctly. Man, just does not. Because man doesn't think like His Creator. In Isaiah 55 and verses 8 and 9 we see a fundamental scripture about the difference between how man thinks and how his Creator thinks. This is a scripture that we should always keep in mind.

Isaiah 55:8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith 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. (KJV)*

So, the message from our Father is,

*I don't think the way you think. The way I think is far beyond the way you think. The way you work is not the way that I work. As the sky soars above the earth, the way I work far surpasses the way you work.*

Why is this important to us as human beings? We find another very fundamental scripture about humans in Jeremiah 10:23. This is one of my favorite scriptures because it always keeps us grounded on who we are as humans. Jeremiah is speaking to God Almighty.

Jeremiah 10:23 *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. (KJV)*

What Jeremiah is acknowledging is that man does not know—apart from God—how to put one foot in front of the other; he just doesn't. The fact is, humanity in humanity's pride, thinks it knows the way. It's a giant red flag for me when somebody says, I trust myself. I trust my instincts; I trust my judgments. That is not what God's Word says—it is just not. All we have to do is look around at conditions in the world today and see the results of how man thinks and how man acts.

Today, what we want to do is investigate the difference between our Father's Thoughts and our thoughts and our Father's Ways and our ways, to see what lessons we can learn from that investigation. The title of the sermon is:

### Man's Thoughts Are Not Our Father's Thoughts

We are going to have three major points—we are going to look at three areas.

First, we are going to answer the question: Why aren't man's thoughts, God's Thoughts? What has caused the difference? That's the first thing we will look at.

The second thing—and we will spend the majority of the time on this— is looking at several biblical examples which will show us just how detached the Father's Thoughts and Ways are from the way humans operate, how they think and act. We are also going to see how often the course of action the Almighty takes makes such little sense to human beings. We're going to look into that and see that by these examples.

The third thing we are going to do, is to see what lessons our Father wants us to take away from this investigation.

The first Point is:

#### **1. Why aren't man's thoughts our Father's Thoughts?**

Look at a fundamental scripture, Romans 8:6. This is fundamental to this understanding of knowing why man thinks so differently to how our Father thinks.

**Romans 8:6** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (KJV)*

It says to be carnally minded. What does the word *carnally* mean? In the Greek it's Strong's #4561 and it literally means "the skin stripped away from the flesh". Meaning if you had a cadaver and you peel the flesh away you would be looking down at what is inside. So that is the primary definition of that word. But Strong's goes on to say, "by implication human nature and all its frailty". So, to be *carnal* we are looking at the basic human nature of man. In verse 6, to be carnally minded is death but to spiritually minded is life and peace—why?

*7) Because the carnal mind [this fleshly mind] is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (KJV)*

We don't often use the word *enmity* but in the Greek, it means "hostility, hatred or opposition". What this verse is telling us, is that our very nature, apart from God's influence, is in opposition to our Father. Apart from the Holy Spirit, each one of us—

even though we have been called by God—are all carnally minded and we have to keep that in the forefront of our minds at all times.

Where did this begin? We know where it began. Go back to Genesis 2 where it began with the first two human beings who were created. We're going to begin in verse 16. The Creator commanded Adam and Eve to do something very important.

**Genesis 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:*

*17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (KJV)*

After God Almighty spoke these words, Satan came on the scene and he presented Adam and Eve with an option. That option was in opposition to their Creator. As we all know, they willingly chose that option. Remember, it is not just the Tree of the Knowledge of Evil, but it is also the Tree of the Knowledge of Good. So, by making that choice, mankind decided to define what is good and what is evil. This was at the same time when mankind did not know how to put one foot in front of the other. They made that decision, not knowing what on earth they were doing.

Yehovah warned Israel against doing what it chooses. In Deuteronomy 30:15 Moses is indeed warning Israel and that warning is coming from their Creator, Yehovah. Moses is speaking not long before his death.

**Deuteronomy 30:15** *See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; (KJV)*

White and Black.

*16) In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.*

*17) But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; (KJV)*

That is idolatry and that's exactly what Adam and Eve did—they substituted what Satan said for what God the Father had said.

*18) I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.*

*19) I call heaven and earth to record this day against you [Moses said], that I have set before you, life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore, choose life [you have a choice], that both thou and thy seed may live:*

*20) That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: (KJV)*

The Hebrew word *cleave* means “to catch by pursuit”. We have to go after our Creator and we have to hang onto our Creator.

*20 continued) ... for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. (KJV)*

As an aside, who is Yehovah? who is this one, who is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? In Acts 3:13, we are just going to take a quick aside and then go on with the flow of the sermon. If you ever want to know Who the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is, it's very plain, it's right here.

**Acts 3:13** *The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; (KJV)*

Who on earth could be the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? It has to be God the Father; it is so simple. History reveals that Israel willingly rejected Yehovah and willingly rejected Moses' warning and since the time the first two humans walked this earth, man has decided to direct his own steps, doing what seemed best to him. As I said before, look at the results today. Look at the chaos, the evil and the ungodliness in this world today.

The problem is, what seems best to a human is under the influence and under the provocation of Satan himself. That leads to inevitable results, like the results that we find in Judah in Jeremiah 44:16 out of the New King James. The context is, the Jews have fled to the land of Egypt after the fall of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is trying to correct them and this is what they're saying back to Jeremiah. Notice the attitude—the carnal attitude.

**Jeremiah 44:16** *As for the word that you [Jeremiah] have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you! (NKJV)*

What a concept. That has happened since the time of Adam and Eve.

*17) But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth [we're going to decide what's good and bad], to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. (NKJV)*

We are going to continue doing that, regardless of the consequences. Israel and Judah continually rejected Yehovah and they have a track record of worshipping anybody—any god, except God Almighty.

So, the reason man's thoughts are not our Father's Thoughts is because man's mind is corrupted by Satan and as a result, what man does is to use Satan's mind to guide his steps. Not God Almighty's mind, not Jesus Christ His Son's mind, but Satan's mind. Which results in what we just read in Jeremiah. What they were saying to Jeremiah is in direct opposition to Yehovah's thoughts and that is the history of mankind. Man, of himself, does not want to have the thoughts of God Almighty. He wants to have his own thoughts, but he does not know those are Satan's thoughts and ideas. So that ends point number one.

We are now going to spend the majority of the time on Point number 2.

The second Point is:

## **2. Looking at examples of how far apart humans are from God Almighty's thoughts.**

We are going to see from the Bible how much greater, how much higher, how much more differently our Father thinks than we think as humans. Look first at the example of Abraham in Genesis 12 and, as we go through this, notice the contrast between how Abraham and his wife think versus how God thinks.

**Genesis 12:1** *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:*

*2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

*3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (KJV)*

Ultimately this would happen through the birth of Jesus Christ.

*4) So, Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. (KJV)*

Now go to Genesis 15 and pick up the story. This was likely to be ten years later, so Abram, as he was called then, was now eighty-five years old.

**Genesis 15:1** *After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*

*2) And Abram said, [he addressed his Creator as Lord, the Hebrew word Adonai and Yehovah] Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless [he said You have made all these promises to me and I don't have a child], and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? [Meaning Eliezer is an employee, we would say—a worker but is not of the blood of Abraham.]*

3) *And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. (KJV)*

In those days, if the family was childless the inheritance would go to the worker or the employee or slave, born in their house—in Abraham’s house. So, Abraham is saying, Yehovah You have made these promises but all I have is my housekeeper, so what’s going on?

4) *And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, this shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. (KJV)*

These are our Father’s Thoughts and our Father’s Ways, spoken to an eighty-five-year-old man. Genesis 16:1—this is a year later and Abram is now eighty-six, you can see that in verse 16.

**Genesis 16:1** *Now Sarai [in Hebrew it’s pronounced Saw-raw-ee] Abram’s wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.*

2) *And Sarai said unto Abram, behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. [These are human thoughts, man’s thoughts, not the Creator’s thoughts] And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

3) *And Sarai Abram’s wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

4) *And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress [Sarai, Abraham’s wife] was despised in her eyes. (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *despised* means “to make light of or trifling”. This maid looked down on her mistress because the maid had a child and the mistress didn’t. Verse 15.

15) *And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son’s name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.*

16) *And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram. (KJV)*

If they had not thought as humans, there would be more Muhammad because Muhammad descended from Kadar, one of the twelve sons of Ishmael. That’s a result of humans taking matters into their own hands and not thinking like God Almighty. Most of today’s Arabs are Ishmaelites. If Abraham and his wife had trusted in God there would have been no Ishmael. But that’s what mankind decided and seemed right to him.

Now let’s go to Genesis 17:1, this is now fourteen years later, Abraham still doesn’t have a child out of his bowels with his wife.

**Genesis 17:1** *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God [in case he didn't understand that, the Father is saying "I can do anything I choose to do."]; walk before me, and be thou perfect. (KJV)*

Going to verse 15.

*15) And God said unto Abraham [He has called Abraham now in the intervening time], As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah [which means "princess"] shall her name be.*

*16) And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.*

*17) Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, [he wouldn't dare say it out loud] Shall a child be born unto him that is a hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? (KJV)*

Those are the thoughts of men—of humans.

*18) And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee! (KJV)*

This was a human thought. He said I want this son of my handmaid to be the heir of all that you have promised. Those are man's thoughts. Notice what God said, verse 19.

*19) And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: [He even told him what to name him] and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. (KJV)*

Yehovah ways are unimaginable to the human mind. Who would have come up with this? But this is what actually happened. Now let's go to chapter 21:1.

**Genesis 21:1** *And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. (KJV)*

God will keep His promises.

*2) For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. (KJV)*

Exactly as His promise—this is Yehovah's ways, not man's ways.

*3) And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. (KJV)*

What we see here is that Yehovah gave Abraham the son of his dreams. Then guess what the Almighty said? "I want you to kill him". Think about that.

“We have been through all of this, you took your own steps, you have this other son, I have given you a son, but now I want you to kill him.”

**Genesis 22:1** *And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt [in the King James, the Hebrew means “test”.] Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.*

*2) And he said, take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (KJV)*

Can you imagine? After all this time—I’ve given you a son and now I want you to go burn him as an offering to Me. This was the ultimate test for Abraham. Would he get angry with Yehovah? Would he doubt Him? Would he hate Yehovah for what He is proposing to do, or would he trust and be patient? In verse 4 Abraham has a three-day journey to contemplate all of this and ponder it.

Verse 10.

*10) And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*

*11) And the Angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. (KJV)*

Waiting to be rescued.

*12) And he said, lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now, I know that thou fearest God, [this was a test] seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. (KJV)*

Abraham is a type of God the Father Who offered His own Son in that regard. The point is, if you look at this whole account with Abraham, would we have thought to do it that way as human beings? Could we have even considered it or dreamed of it? But look at the good fruits of God Almighty’s way. Look at what has happened and the promises to all mankind.

Now let’s look at another example, the example of Joseph. As we know, Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him, they sold him to the Ishmaelites in Chapter 37 and remember the Ishmaelites are the descendants of Hagar—the handmaid of Sarah. In Genesis 39 we pick up the account of Joseph, sold into slavery.

**Genesis 39:1** *And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.*

*2) And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.*

*3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*



4) *And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.*

5) *And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. (KJV)*

All of his crops.

6) *And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.*

7) *And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.*

8) *But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master does not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;*

9) *There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? (KJV)*

Joseph understood the Ten Commandments, he understood that adultery and fornication were a sin.

10) *And it came to pass, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

11) *And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. (KJV)*

He was alone with Potiphar's wife.

12) *And she caught him by his garment, saying, lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. (KJV)*

Joseph was righteous and obeyed God's law. In 1 Corinthians 6:18 we are told to flee fornication—that's exactly what he did. He got up on his feet and ran out of the house. But because Joseph rejected her, she was angry with him and she decided to get back at him, saying that he had tried to assault her, or tried to rape her. Now to verse 19.

19) *And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, after this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.*

20) *And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. (KJV)*

Think about this. Joseph did everything perfectly and look what Yehovah allowed to happen. What would be our reaction? “This is not fair; how can God do this to me? It isn’t right, what’s going on here?”

As with Abraham, this was an ultimate test for Joseph. Would he get angry with his Creator? Would he doubt his Creator? Would he blame Yehovah or would he trust and be patient? What would he do? Let’s look at the end result in Genesis 41, I think we all know the story.

**Genesis 41:39** *And Pharaoh said unto Joseph [not Potiphar], Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this [the dreams that the Pharaoh had, the interpretations, the actions that were subsequently taken], there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:*

*40) Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. (KJV)*

Look at the result of Yehovah’s Way and we have to ask again, could we as human beings think of this? Could we come up with this? Could we see so far down the road to understand what ought to be done?

Now look at another example, that of Rahab beginning in Joshua 2:1. The context is that Israel was on the east side of Jordan shortly after the death of Moses and they were ready to go into the Promised Land.

**Joshua 2:1** *Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So, they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.*

*2) And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.” (KJV)*

They are spies. Verse 6.

*6) (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) (KJV)*

Verse 8.

*8) Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,*

*9) and said to the men: I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.*

*10) For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.*

*11) And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, [notice the latter part] for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. (KJV)*

How did she know that? It had to be a revelation from God Almighty. Otherwise, how would she know?

*12) Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father s house, and give me a true token ... (KJV)*

What did she ask for?

*13) and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”*

*14) So, the men answered her, Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. (KJV)*

And we know the story, she and her family were spared. Now with that in mind, let's go to Matthew 1:1 and see how Rahab fits into the whole scheme of things. This is talking about the generations leading up to Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 1:1** *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (KJV)*

We see a line here, notice verse 5.

*5) And Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; (KJV)*

Jewish tradition says that Salmon was one of the two spies that she hid.

*5 continued) ... and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;  
6) And Jesse begat David the king; (KJV)*

So, we see this prostitute was the great, great grandmother of King David. If God said to me,

“Hey Rick, I’m planning the lineage of David, tell me what you think about having a Gentile prostitute in that line? What’s your take on that plan?”

I think what we would all say is, “How could You do that? How can this be?”

From our viewpoint today, the fact is, this was a precursor to what would happen later. The Gospel would be opened up to the Gentiles and we would all be one under Jesus Christ. There would be no Jew, no Greek, no male, no female. So, the Father decided

to insert a Gentile into the lineage that led up to Christ's physical father, Joseph. This is a tremendous lesson about God's mercy, our Father's mercy.

Remember what Yehovah said to Moses—we know the scripture; “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion?”

We find that in Romans 9:15 and it's quoting Exodus 33:9. God will do what He will do and He will have mercy and compassion on whom He chooses. The point I'm making is, would we have thought this way? Would we have sought to insert Rahab into the equation? No, we would not have done that. But look at the fruits of our Father's way.

Let's go to another example—Gideon. The context is Israel was turning to idolatry. This is in Judges 7. They did and the Midianites came down and dominated them. Gideon was just an average Joe. He had no distinction, no pedigree. Yehovah came to Gideon and said, I want you to save Israel. There is a Midianite force of 135,000 which was coming against Israel—you can check that in chapter 8:10. It turned out that Gideon only had a force of 32,000. So right out of the shoot they were outnumbered four to one. I think if we were in that same position that Gideon was in, we would want a sign and that's exactly what Gideon wanted. He said he wanted the fleece wet and the ground dry and then he wanted the fleece dry and the ground wet as a sign from God and that's exactly what happened—we would do the same thing. We pick up the story in Judges 7:1

**Judges 7:1** *Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod [60 miles north of Jerusalem]: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.*

2) *And the LORD said unto Gideon, [you have too many people, too many troops] The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, [that was God's thoughts, the Almighty's thoughts, not human thoughts; human thoughts were, are you nuts? We are already outnumbered four to one] lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.*

3) *Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. (KJV)*

Now, they are outnumbered thirteen to one. God's thinking, not man's thinking.

4) *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many [again, Yehovah's thoughts, not man's thoughts]; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. (KJV)*

What Yehovah said is, take them down to the water and we will see who sticks his head in the water and drinks from the water and who scoops the water into his hand and drinks from his hand.

*6) And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. (KJV)*

It's likely that those who scooped up the water while looking around were more military minded—being alert to their surroundings.

*7) And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, [those are God Almighty's thoughts] and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place. (KJV)*

A good example of man's way is the first Gulf war in January of 1991. The U.S. doctrine going into that war against Saddam Hussein was overwhelming force. The last thing the U.S. military wanted was a fair fight. If you are going to win, you do not want a fair fight and Saddam Hussein frankly had no chance. In that war it's estimated that 100,000 Iraqi soldiers died against 383 U.S. troops. Yet here our Father is doing just the opposite. Verse 16.

*16) And he divided the three hundred men [now they are outnumbered exactly 450 to one] into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. (KJV)*

And at Gideon's signal they were to break the pitchers, blow the trumpets and shout, The Sword of Yehovah and the sword of Gideon. Verse 22.

*22) And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath. (KJV)*

Yehovah engineered a great victory with a few defeating the many. Would we have thought to do it that way? Of course not. Would we have done it that way? No, we wouldn't.

Now we will look at another example; the death of Uzzah. In the days of Saul, the Philistines captured the Ark of God. You will find that in 1 Samuel 4. After a few disasters, the Philistines learned their lesson and sent the Ark back to Israel; in 1 Samuel 6 and 7. It came to the home of Abinadab who lived only a couple of miles outside the city limits of Jerusalem and to the north. David had in his mind to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem. We will pick up the story in 2 Samuel 6:2.

**2 Samuel 6:2** *And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, [notice this next*

phrase] *whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubim.* (KJV)

As an aside, we see very clearly that God Almighty—that's His title—has a name and His name is Yehovah and he dwells between the cherubim.

3) *And they set the ark of God upon a new cart [bringing it from Abinadab's home to Jerusalem—keep that in mind that it was a new cart], and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.*

4) *And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.*

5) *And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD [they were filled with joy] on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.*

6) *And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.* (KJV)

They had this high cart with this box on top, they were going over rough ground and the Ark started to wobble on the cart.

7) *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.* (KJV)

What a surprise. Notice David's reaction in verse 8.

8) *And David was displeased [he was not happy, he was bummed out], because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.* (KJV)

The Hebrew means “the break of Uzzah”. There were two errors made that day. Number one, David put the Ark on a new cart. He did not go back and check the records. The proper way to carry the Ark was in Exodus 25. In each corner of the Ark, a ring was to be put. Then golden staves were to slide through the four rings and then there was a man on each corner who would lift up the Ark, put this staff on his shoulder and they could walk the Ark forward. The Ark was below the center of gravity, it was very low. So, then the men could walk over uneven ground and there would be no damage to the Ark at all. Also, in Exodus 25, it was determined who should carry the Ark and those were the sons of Kohath—that's in Numbers 7, you can check that. David had carried the Ark in the wrong way. Number two, Uzzah touched the Ark. The sons of Kohath were warned not to touch the Ark or they would die. It's mentioned twice—two times in Numbers 4.

As I said, David was displeased, he was not happy. I'm sure he was thinking,

“How could You do that? I am trying to honor You; we were rejoicing and singing songs and praises to You. Uzzah reached out to try and steady the Ark and You strike him dead. You kill him; what on earth is going on? I don’t understand this.”

In hindsight David did understand and he saw his error. Go to 1 Chronicles 15:12. David is talking to the priests and acknowledging the error.

**1 Chronicles 15:12** *And [David] said unto them [the Priests], Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. [This is a “do over” now]*

*13) For because ye did it not at the first [he says we didn’t do it right the first time], the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. (KJV)*

Didn't go back and look at the scriptures to see how Yehovah wanted it done.

*14) So, the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.*

*15) And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD. (KJV)*

Think about that. They looked to see what the Father wanted then did it the way the Father said to do it and everything worked out just fine. What is the underlying principle? Let’s go to Proverbs 16:25. As humans we need to learn this permanently; it should be part of our being. Every time we have a wild-haired idea we need to remember this scripture.

**Proverbs 16:25** *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man [it seems logical, it seems okay, it seems good], but the end thereof are the ways of death. (KJV)*

When are we, as human beings, going to learn that there is Yehovah's way and then there is the wrong way? It is either—or. There is the right way, Yehovah’s way or there is the wrong way and that is what the example of Uzzah teaches us. Could man dream this up, could man come up with this? Of course not; God’s thoughts are so far above our thoughts and He teaches us lessons as a result of that.

We will go to one last example under this second point of learning what is recorded in God’s Word and that’s the Sermon on the Mount. We will go to Matthew 5 because we are going to see the extreme difference between our Father’s thoughts and human thoughts. We could spend a long time here but we are just going to cover one principle that Christ brought forward.

**Matthew 5:43** *Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. (KJV)*

That was a popular concept in His day and it was obviously man's thoughts. We love our friends and just hate our enemies. Anybody who is different from us, not like us, they are our enemies and we hate them.

*44) But I say unto you ... (KJV)*

We have to understand that He is repeating His Father's Thoughts and Words. Remember all the scriptures where Christ said , "I can do nothing but what My Father tells me to do; I come to please My Father."

*44 continued) ... Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (KJV)*

What would be the average human's thoughts if they heard that? You have to be kidding me! You're crazy! Love your enemies? Do good to your enemies? Come on! What planet are you living on? That's the attitude today. Going on, Christ explains why in verse 45.

*45) That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*46) For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?*

*47) And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?*

*48) Be ye therefore perfect [the Greek means "complete"], even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (KJV)*

Would we have thought of this on our own? Absolutely not, but look at the fruits of God's way. If everybody obeyed this concept, the wars, the fighting, the prejudice, the evil in this world would just melt away. Closing out this second point, there are dozens of other such examples in God's Word. The manner in which David was chosen to be king comes to mind. Or Paul being chosen to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles after all he had done to persecute the Christians. Would we have done it that way? No. There are many other examples in God's Word.

The third Point is:

**3. Look at what lessons we can learn from understanding that God's Thoughts are not man's thoughts; we are going to cover four in the time remaining.**

**3A. Our Father Thinks and Works in ways we cannot imagine or comprehend.**



Look at the examples we have covered today. Generally, we only see in hindsight, our Father's brilliant reasoning. David didn't understand a thing about Uzzah until later at some point in time. Abraham, Joseph, Rahab— seen in hindsight. Sometimes you don't see it when it's happening because God's ways are so far above us—His Thoughts, His Ways—that in this life frankly, sometimes we might never know why God our Father chooses to do things in a certain way.

For example, we talked about Joseph. Yehovah caused or allowed Pharaoh to give Joseph a wife who was the daughter of one of the most powerful priestly families in Egypt. You can check that in Genesis 41. This woman that Yehovah caused Pharaoh to give Joseph is the mother of Ephraim and Manasseh. So, Ephraim and Manasseh have Egyptian blood in their veins. Why did the Father do it that way? I don't know. Someday we'll find out why He did it that way. But His Ways are so far above ours, therefore who are we to question that? We see life with huge limitations—we are humans. I've said before, we walk around in life looking through tiny soda straws while God sees the big picture which we cannot see. We miss so much, but our Father does not. Look at Isaiah 46:10. This is the perspective of God Almighty; it's certainly not the perspective of a human being—it can't be.

**Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning* [because He was there at the beginning and He will be there at the end, that's His name—Yehovah], *and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:* (KJV)

This fact should inspire awe and trust in us toward our Father because His Ways, His Thoughts, are so much greater than ours that we can look to Him and trust Him. He sees what we cannot see.

A second lesson:

**3B. After any incident that occurs in our lives, we should be suspect of what first comes to our mind.**

We should be suspect. Remember David was upset when God Almighty killed Uzzah. That is what came first to David's mind—he was not happy. Remember Romans 8:7, we read earlier, "The carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to the laws of God, neither indeed can be".

David's first reaction was unhappiness. What does our Father say about that? When something happens, when we are going through a trial or something happens to disappoint us or upset us, what do we do? What I'm saying is, we should not trust our first reaction because it's likely to be a carnal reaction. Proverbs 3:5 is what we should do.

**Proverbs 3:5** *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

6) *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (KJV)*

He will direct your paths—not Satan, not human nature.

7) *Be not wise in thine own eyes [we need to learn that]; fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (KJV)*

Look at a second principle in Proverbs 14:12. This wasn't written at the time of the situation with Uzzah, but David could have profited from reading this.

**Proverbs 14:12** *There is a way which seemeth [emphasis on “seems”] right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (KJV)*

It seemed right to David to put the Ark on a new cart.

“I'll build a brand-new cart for God; I'll honor God with a new cart.”

It seemed right to Uzzah that when the Ark was wobbling,

“I had better stabilize it and put my hands on it.”

But the end was death. This is why we should question what first comes into our minds when we have a trial or when we go through a difficult time or somebody comes at us with something. We should question what first comes into our minds because it is likely to be a carnal thought, which is in opposition to our Father's mind. Going through all of this is sometimes scary to see how far away our thoughts are from our Father's Thoughts.

A third lesson—a third “takeaway” from what we have read today.

### **3C. When things don't make sense to us, be patient and trust—trust God Almighty.**

Look at 1 Peter 1:19. Here is the plan of God; think about this from our Father's perspective versus a human perspective.

**1 Peter 1:19** *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: [sinned not, a perfect life]*

*20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ... (KJV)*

Stop and think about this. The fact that Christ was foreordained to come, before Adam was ever created. The Father knew that there would be a need for a second Adam before the first Adam was ever created and ever sinned. To put this in today's terms. If you went to your boss and said,

“Plan A that I’m presenting today is going to end up with Plan B, so therefore, I want to start with Plan A.”

Your boss would say,

“Are you nuts? If Plan A is going to end with Plan B let’s just go directly to Plan B and get it done.”

You would be fired if you did that. That is the way a human would look at it. The point being, our Father knows exactly what He is doing. Even though to a human it makes no sense. Why have the first Adam if you’re going to need a second Adam?

It reminds me of when I had to get out of the Air Force. The ministry made me apply to get out of the Air Force before they would baptize me, because I had to prove my sincerity. So, I applied. The application was being processed and while it was, I was baptized. So, it seemed I was doing God’s will. I just got baptized, knowing this application would be approved—no doubt in my mind. Well, it wasn’t approved, it was refused. There again, I had the same attitude that David had.

“God, what are You doing? Why are you doing this to me? You want me to get out of the military, You want me to be baptized, I’m doing everything You asked me to do. This is a military organization that is responsible for killing people (the Vietnam War was raging at the time) You don’t want me to be part of that, so why didn’t You approve this?”

In hindsight, years later, I saw God Almighty’s Hand in it. He was encouraging me to build faith and to be patient because I was this young, inexperienced convert who didn’t know how to put one foot in front of the other. He was saying, “Would you just calm down, be patient, let Me do what I’m going to do, trust Me and it will all work out”.

And sure enough, it did.

We have to understand that our thoughts and logic may not be our Father’s thoughts and logic. We see that in Ecclesiastes 7:8. This is what we have to keep in mind when we are in the middle of a trial. Great wisdom here.

**Ecclesiastes 7:8** [Solomon says] *Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: [notice this last part] and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.* (KJV)

Trust God, be patient, let Him do what He will do. Abraham set the perfect example of trust and patience.

Point D, the last of our “take aways” from what we have read today. This is a crucial one when we go through a trial.

### **3D. All of our Father's Thoughts and all His Ways are directed for our ultimate benefit.**

Everything He does and allows is for our benefit. Remember Romans 8:28, we know that by heart, "All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose".

Remember the incident with Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39? Joseph was put in prison for obeying Yehovah. The common phrase today: "No good deed goes unpunished". He rejected her advances and look what happened to him. In the middle of the trial it looked really bad, but look how gloriously it ended, because he became second in command of the Egyptian empire.

With that in mind look at Philippians 1:6; this is a promise. This is what God's Goal is and what His Work for us as individuals is about. Paul is saying to us today:

**Philippians 1:6** *Being confident of this very thing, [we can have absolute confidence] that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (KJV)*

Everything He does, everything He allows is for that good work, to have its end result of us being in His Kingdom. Verse 12 out of the New King James.

*12) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel ... (NKJV)*

All the beatings and the shipwreck, the imprisonments that he went through, turned out for everyone's benefit and to his benefit. So, in the middle of a trial when we say,

"Father why are you doing this to me?"

We have to have the faith that our Father is demonstrating to us that His Thoughts and His Ways are so far beyond our ways and above our thoughts and that everything He does is for our ultimate good and benefit.

To conclude, we have seen why the human mind is so far below God's Mind and we have seen many examples of the vast differences between the way Yehovah thinks and the way humans think. We have seen how differently a human would do it compared to the way God Almighty does it. We have looked into some lessons and what we have learned from these. Going forward in this very unstable world we just need to remember that our Father's Ways are far above ours. If we don't understand why He does something, we have to have faith and trust that He knows what He is doing and what He is doing is for our ultimate benefit.

What is the overriding “take away” of this? Go to Isaiah 55:7. This is what we need to remember at all times, especially when we are going through difficult times. With the understanding that our Father’s Ways and Thoughts are so far above ours.

**Isaiah 55:7** *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: (KJV)*

Why? Because they are so far below Yehovah’s Ways and Thoughts. Going on in the NLT.

*7 continued) ... let them turn to Yehovah, that He may have mercy on them; yes, turn to our God for He will abundantly pardon. (NLT)*

How do we do this? We have to seek the Mind of our Father. In Philippians 2:5, we are told to, “Let this mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ”.

The Father and the Son have the same Mind and our goal should be to have the Father’s viewpoint, His Thoughts, His Ways, at the forefront of our minds. As we approach Passover—it’s only a few weeks away—let us all seek to have the Mind of our Father and His Son. Let us trust in God Almighty’s Thoughts and Ways, because they are ultimately for our benefit.