

Let Us Reason

There is a popular, poison doctrine that saturates most modern religious belief: the supposed conflict between faith and logic. The popular view is that the two are incompatible or, worse, contradictory. Nothing could be further from the truth. The actual irony is that in the most important endeavor in which one can be occupied in this life, preparing for the next life, there is a necessity for reason.

Isaiah began his pleading for the salvation for the children of Israel with a direct reference to a reasoned, reasonable faith. *“‘Come not, and let us reason together,’ Says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. **If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword’; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken”*** (Isaiah 1:18-20).

First, God is reasonable. It stands to reason that He would communicate in a reasonable, logical, common-sense fashion. To assert otherwise is to call God a fool. Second, God’s invitation through Isaiah is to be reasonable, logical and employ common sense. The invitation to it implies that we have the capacity for it. To claim that God is too mysterious to understand to the degree He wishes to reveal Himself is to call God incompetent. Third, and the focus of the irony, Isaiah’s topic is salvation and the formula that has never changed: a willing heart and obedience.

An obedient, saving faith (Romans 6:17) is the only reasonable alternative to blind, damning faith (James 2:17). God said it, that settles it, and I believe it. Do you? Come not, and let us reason together.

JDS