

## God's ways are higher than ours.

Believers in Eternal Conscious Torment (ECT) often quote from Isaiah 55 to justify God's apparently cruel and inhumane actions. They ask, "Who are we to judge God? God's ways are above our ways. His thoughts are above ours. We should not be invoking human reason when evaluating God's actions." Well, they are right about not evaluating God's actions according to human reason. Most reasonable human beings believe that people should be severely punished for their evil actions. Most reasonable human beings believe that punishments should fit the crimes. But God is not reasonable. His ways are not our ways. God returns good for evil. He forgives His enemies. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He saved all of us by grace on the Cross of Calvary, and does not require us to earn our salvation. When He does find it necessary to chastise and correct us, it is always done in love and with the loving purpose of correcting our evil ways. We serve a mighty and loving God who is not at all reasonable when it comes to handing out mercy and pardon to undeserving humanity.

### **Isaiah 55:**

*"Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;*

*and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.*

<sup>2</sup> *Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.*

<sup>3</sup> *Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.*

*I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.*

<sup>4</sup> *See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.*

<sup>5</sup> *Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running to you,  
because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor."*

<sup>6</sup> *Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.*

<sup>7</sup> *Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.*

*Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

<sup>8</sup> *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"*

*declares the Lord.*

<sup>9</sup> *“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

<sup>10</sup> *As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,*

<sup>11</sup> *so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

<sup>12</sup> *You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.*

<sup>13</sup> *Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the Lord’s renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever.”*