

**THOUGHTS FOR  
THE THOUGHTFUL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649721016

Thoughts for the Thoughtful by Adelaide Hyde Shapleigh & Reuen Thomas

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**ADELAIDE HYDE SHAPLEIGH & REUEN THOMAS**

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*SELECTED FROM THE DISCOURSES OF  
REV. REUVEN THOMAS, D.D.*

By A. H. S.

© Soul, it shall be,  
A face like my face, that receives thee;  
A Man like to me  
Thou shalt love and be loved by, forever:  
A Hand like this hand  
Shall throw open the gates of new life to thee!  
See the Christ stand!

BROWNING

CAMBRIDGE  
JOHN WILSON AND SON  
University Press  
1892

2 Nov. 1893

From the Library of  
Prof. A. P. PEABODY (82)

**"In the beginning, God."**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever; even the Spirit of truth.”



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GOD'S revelation of Himself is intended to be a light to the mind, and a joy to the heart. God is *light* as well as *love*. The word "light" suggests holiness; it suggests purity, it suggests intelligence, it suggests wisdom.

IF it be true that men will be this or that, according to their ideas of what God is, and what He requires of them, is it not worth while to be very careful lest we should get wrong views of the Deity? It was so in Greece and Rome; their ideas of God were so corrupt that they corrupted the people.

So long as Mars was worshipped as a deity, war was perpetual. So long as Venus was a goddess, lust was inevitable. So long as the gods were treacherous, the people were treacherous also. When religion's self is of such a nature that it corrupts the people, the decline and fall are very rapid.

**WE** can know much of God. All His works speak of Him. There is strength in Him, says the mighty mountain. There is majesty in Him, say the Niagaras as they roar. There is light in Him, says the sun. There is order in Him, say the stars: such order, says the comet, such punctuality in fulfilling his appointments, that I will be back again from my measureless orbit to a second. There is LOVE in Him, says Jesus Christ.

**EVERY** one who knows anything of Scripture knows how gradual has been the revealing of God to the human race. In the wonderful book of Job — the epitomized life of the race — we have the thought unrealized of a Redeemer; but “my Father, and your Father, my God and your God,” is New Testament language.

**ALL** creation cannot tell as much of God as was told in the simple fact that He was the *Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**AS** a child cries for its mother, so the spiritual in man cries out for its Father, God.

**WE** can no more exist without a surrounding God, than a tree can exist without a surrounding atmosphere.