

## Reflection Friday Week 1 – 2021

*Never forget the deeds of the Lord*, declares the antiphon to the Psalm. Jewish life is focused and lived around the story of how God has worked in their history making it easier for them to see how God is working in their lives today. Reflect on the wisdom of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: *“Philosophy teaches truth-as-system, the Bible teaches truth-as-story.”*

- *“Greatness, even for God, certainly for us, is not to be above people but to be with them, hearing their silent cry, sharing their distress, bringing comfort to the distressed and dignity to the deprived. The message of the Hebrew Bible is that civilizations survive not by strength but by how they respond to the weak; not by wealth but by how they care for the poor; not by power but by their concern for the powerless. What renders a culture invulnerable is the compassion it shows to the vulnerable.”*
- *“The story of the Hebrew Bible as a whole, extending across a thousand years in real time, is of the progressive withdrawal of divine intervention and the transfer of responsibility to human beings.”*

Scripture is fully part of our history and the treasure-house of much wisdom. We need to give it time in our lives. It will shape how we think and therefore how we speak. It will bring us to a clearer realisation of how close God is to us and enable us to see and experience God’s presence in our lives. In speaking about God and telling the stories of scripture, particularly about Jesus, wisdom will grow stronger in our lives. Since our natural environment is a singularly profound revelation of its creator, it, too, has much to teach us and the more we nurture, heal and cleanse creation the more our wisdom will grow along with the wonder and love we have for our Creator.

**An elderly American farmer** had a large pond that was ideal for swimming. He added picnic tables and apple and peach trees to it. One evening the farmer decided to visit his pond. He grabbed a large bucket to bring back some fruit. Approaching the pond, he sees some young women skinny-dipping in his pond. Making the women aware of his presence, they all swim over to the far end. One of them shouts, *“We’re not coming out until you leave mister!”*

The farmer replies, *“Ladies, I didn’t come down here to watch you swim or make you get out of the pond. You carry on.”*

The wily old timer then holds up his bucket and says, *“I just came down here to feed the alligators!”*