Writing Assignment No 3 (second graded assignment)

Write an essay about one of the following topics. The biblical evidence in each case should be selected from the parts of the Bible we have read. Of course, you can’t discuss all those parts, but don’t discuss parts we have not read, or confine yourself to only one Bible book.

1. “Athena, as depicted by Homer in the Odyssey, is actually very close to being providential in the manner of the biblical God.” To what extent, if any, is this true?

2. “The God of the Bible is very much like old Eli in 1 Samuel—always nagging his children but not really controlling them.” To what extent, if any, is this true?

3. The following story is a joke often told by religious people. Its subject is providence. How close is the basic idea expressed in this story to the idea (or ideas) of providence that you have seen in the biblical works we have read? Here’s the story:

   Old Mr. Johnson is a very religious man. He faithfully attends public worship, he tries to do all the things that are taught by his religious group, he gives large amounts of money to the group, and so on. He does this for 90 years. There is only one thing he wants in return: he wants to win the lottery. He doesn’t care how much money he wins; he just wants to win, one time in his life. Now, almost at the end of his life, he prays to God, “O Lord, I have been faithful to you for 90 years. All I wanted was to win the lottery, just one time. But you have never allowed me to do so.” Suddenly, at the end of this prayer, the heavens open, a supernatural light shines upon him, and he hears the voice of God. “Johnson!” the voice says. “Do me a favor. Buy a ticket.”

Make your paper a real 5 pages long. Keep in mind what is in the writing handouts that have been passed out in section, especially the Thesis handout. Papers are due at the end of lecture on Friday, February 13.

Before turning in the hard copy, you must submit another copy to the antiplagiarism website Turnitin.com. Do not use outside sources. Do not use their words. Do not use their alleged ideas. I want your words and ideas, and yours alone. As I’ve explained, they are certain to be better than those of any “source” you are tempted to grab. The best thing is not even to look at outside sources. SC