

# Leo Strauss

## Quotes

*Men, Philosophy, Views, Political, Trying, Excellence, Past, Tolerance, Mean, Wise, Effort, Character, Book, Quests, Doe, Ideas, Historical, Fate, Greatness,*

*Two*

The Jewish people and their fate are the living witness for the absence of redemption. This, one could say, is the meaning of the chosen people; the Jews are chosen to prove the absence of redemption.

~Leo Strauss

One cannot refute what one has not thoroughly understood.

~Leo Strauss

The silence of a wise man is always meaningful.

~Leo Strauss

Education to perfect gentlemanship, to human excellence, liberal education consists in reminding oneself of human excellence, of human greatness.

~Leo Strauss

Life is too short to live with any but the greatest books.

~Leo Strauss

Nothing ought to be said or done which could create the impression that unbiased reconsideration of the most elementary premises of philosophy is a merely academic or historical affair.

~Leo Strauss

For try as one may to expel nature with a hayfork, it will always come back.

~Leo Strauss

If the highest things are unknowable, then the highest capacity or virtue of man cannot be theoretical wisdom.

~Leo Strauss

Liberal education reminds those members of a mass democracy who have ears to hear, of human greatness.

~Leo Strauss

It is as absurd to expect members of philosophy departments to be philosophers as it is to expect members of art departments to be artists.

~Leo Strauss

The contemporary rejection of natural right leads to nihilism - nay, it is identical with nihilism.

~Leo Strauss

Philosophizing means, then, to ascend from public dogma to essentially private knowledge.

~Leo Strauss

God is therefore unknowable. This is the fundamental premise of the Bible.

~Leo Strauss

God's reasons for communicating with man must be subsumed under his reason for communicating to him his account of his creation of the world - and man.

~Leo Strauss

If God is One, and if there can be no other God, there can be no idea of God.

~Leo Strauss

But the God of the Bible is not only One, but the only possible One.

~Leo Strauss

The clarification of our political ideas insensibly changes into and becomes indistinguishable from the history of political ideas.

~Leo Strauss

Even by proving that a certain view is indispensable for living well, one proves merely that the view in question is a salutary myth: one does not prove it to be true.

~Leo Strauss

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