

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

I desire to give the explanation of what is related in the Evangelists concerning the Lord when He was transfigured, where some similar expressions occur; and then of what is said concerning the soldiers dividing His garments, and casting lots upon His vesture.... The reason why the Lord took Peter, James, and John, was, that they represented the church as to faith, charity, and the works of charity. He took them into a high mountain, because by mountain is signified heaven. His face shone as the sun, because the face signifies the interiors, which, being Divine, shone as the sun; for the sun is the Divine love. His garments became white as the light, because garments signify Divine truth proceeding from Him: the same is also signified by light. Moses and Elias appeared, because they both signify the Word, Moses the historical Word, and Elias the prophetic Word. A bright cloud overshadowed them, because a bright cloud signifies the Word in the letter, in which is the internal sense. The voice out of the cloud said, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him, because a voice out of a cloud signifies Divine truth from the Word, and beloved Son, the Lord's Divine Human; and because Divine truth, and therefore all the truth of the church, is from Him, it was said out of the cloud, "In whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." That the Divine Human of the Lord was thus seen, is clear, because the Divine itself cannot appear to any except by means of the Divine Human; this the Lord teaches also in John: "No one hath seen God at any time; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath brought him forth to view"(i. 18).

*Apocalypse Explained #64.1-3*

[The literal sense of the Word] is meant by 'the cloud' which surrounded Peter, James, and John when the Lord appeared to them in glory [at the Transfiguration]. Moses and Elijah there who conversed with the Lord represented the Old Testament Word, which is also called Moses and the Prophets.... Their presence alone on that occasion meant that no others are able to see the glory of the Lord which is present in His Word than those with whom faith, its partner charity, and good flowing from charity are present. All others do indeed have the ability to see; nevertheless they do not see because they do not believe.

*Arcana Celestia #2135 (Preface To Arcana Celestia Chapter 18)*

That the Word is signified by a cloud ... may seem wonderful to many, because those who comprehend all things according to the sense of the letter of the Word, only see that cloud signifies cloud, and nothing of a spiritual nature pertaining to the Word, because this does not appear to have any relation to a cloud. But still it is Divine truth in ultimates, such as the Word is in the letter, which is here signified....

The signification of the cloud which appeared upon mount Sinai, when the law was promulgated, which was Divine truth; and of the cloud which was seen every day upon the tent of the assembly, and which sometimes filled it is similar. The same also was signified by \_"The bright cloud which overshadowed Peter, James, and John, when Jesus appeared transfigured....

*Apocalypse Explained #906.1-.2*

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM  
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS  
**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST**

Jesus' Transfiguration experienced by the disciples Peter, James and John on a high mountain represents our recognition of God's glory and power in the literal sense of the Word. Our ability to perceive is according to our faith and love.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

Exodus 34:29-35

Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

Now it happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the majesty of God.

Luke 9:28-43