

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

...The Lord from Divine good by Divine truth, rules all things in the universe, in both general and particular. ...By means of the Truth proceeding from Himself the Lord directs all things down to the veriest singulars, not as a king in the world, but as God in heaven and in the universe.

Arcana Celestia, #3704.15 + 8717.2

By "the kingdom of God" in the universal sense, is meant the universal Heaven; in a sense less universal, the true Church of the Lord; in a particular sense, everyone who is of true faith, or who is regenerate by a life of faith; wherefore such are also called "heaven," because heaven is in him or her; and likewise the "kingdom of God," because the kingdom of God is in him or her, as the Lord Himself teaches in ... "the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21)."

Arcana Celestia, #29. 2

All who live in good, and believe that the Lord governs the universe... can be gifted with heavenly freedom, and together with it with peace.... But those who believe that they rules themselves, are continually disquieted, being borne along into cupidities, and into solicitude respecting future things, and thus into manifold anxieties; and, because they so believe, the cupidities of evil and the persuasions of falsity adhere to them.

Arcana Celestia #2892

There are various forms of government in the Lord's spiritual kingdom, different from one community to another. The differences depend on the kinds of service the communities undertake.... But all the forms of government there agree in one respect, in focusing on the public good as their objective, and within this good, the good of each individual.

This happens because everyone in all heaven is under the care of the Lord, who loves everyone and provides out of Divine Love that the common good be the source from which individuals receive their own good. Each one receives what is good as s/he loves the whole. For to the extent that one loves the whole, one loves everyone and each one. And because this love is the Lord's s/he is beloved by the Lord to that extent, and is given what is good.

Heaven & Hell, # 217

Divine providence differs from all other leading and guidance in the fact that Providence continually regards what is eternal, and continually leads unto salvation, and this through various states, sometimes glad, sometimes sorrowful, which one cannot at all comprehend; but still they are all profitable to one's eternal life.

Arcana Celestia, #8560

In the universal spiritual world reigns the end which proceeds from the Lord, which is that nothing whatever, not even the least thing, shall arise, except that good may come from it. Hence the Lord's kingdom is called a kingdom of ends and uses.

Arcana Celestia, #6574e

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
LENT 6: PALM SUNDAY – The Triumphal Entry

As “the Word made flesh,” every episode of Christ’s life corresponds to and represents aspects of our spiritual life. The triumphal Entry into Jerusalem represents the entry into our inner holy center – Jerusalem – of God’s Divine Wisdom into / by means of our affection for truth. It is ironic, yet a reality, that the as-yet-unregenerated parts of ourselves will often reject new insights.

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Declare what is to be, present it — let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult.

Isaiah 45:21-25

And it came to pass, when He came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring it here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing it?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' " So those who were sent went their way and found it just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" And they said, "The Lord has need of him." Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Luke 19:29-40

Jesus answered [Pilate], “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the [Jewish religious authorities]; but now My kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

John 18:36-37