

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

...It is evident (from John 14:19-23) that it is love which conjoins, and that the Lord has His abode with those who love Him, and also with those who love their neighbor, for this is love of the Lord. This union, which makes a likeness and image, cannot be so well seen among people on earth, but is seen in heaven, where from mutual love all the angels are as a one. Each society, which consists of many, constitutes as it were one being. And all the societies together –or the universal heaven –constitute one being, which is also called the Grand Man.... The universal heaven is a likeness of the Lord, for the Lord is the all in all who are therein. So also is each society a likeness, and so is each angel. The celestial angels are likenesses, the spiritual angels are images. Thus heaven consists of as many likenesses of the Lord as there are angels, and this solely through mutual love –one loving another more than oneself.... For in order that the general or universal heaven may be a likeness, the parts, or individual angels, must be likenesses, or images that are according to likenesses. Unless the general consists of parts like itself, it is not a general that makes a one. From these things it may be seen as from an archetype, or pattern, what makes a likeness and image of God, namely, love to the Lord and love toward the neighbor....

Arcana Celestia #1013

...A brief statement of what love to the Lord or loving the Lord is must be made here. Anyone who supposes that one can love the Lord without leading a life in keeping with His commandments is very much mistaken; for leading a life in keeping with them is what constitutes loving the Lord. Those commandments are truths received from the Lord, and so are such as have the Lord within them. To the extent therefore that those commandments are loved, that is, to the extent that a person is inspired by love to lead a life in keeping with them, the Lord is loved. The reason why this should be so is that the Lord loves every person and in His love desires them to be eternally blessed; and no one can become blessed except through a life led in keeping with His commandments. For by means of these the person is being regenerated and made spiritual, and can then be raised to heaven....

Arcana Celestia #10578.3

‘And the gates thereof shall not be closed during the day, for night shall not be there’ signifies that those who are in truths derived from the good of love from the Lord are continually being received into the New Jerusalem, because there is no untruth of faith there. By [the statement] that ‘the gates shall not be closed during the day’ is signified that those who wish to enter in are being continually admitted. By ‘during the day’ is signified continually, because it is always light there, (as above), and there is not any ‘night’, as it follows on. The reason why those who are in truths derived from the good of love from the Lord are continually being received is because the light of the New Jerusalem is truth derived from the good of love, and the good of love is from the Lord ... and into that light no others can enter but those who are in truths derived from good from the Lord. If strangers enter they are not received because they are not in agreement, and then they either go out voluntarily because they find that light unendurable, or they are sent out. By [the statement] that ‘night shall not be there’ is signified that there shall be no untruth of faith; for by ‘night’ is signified what is opposite to the light, and by ‘the light’ is signified truth derived from the good of love from the Lord, as has been said.

Apocalypse Revealed #922

5 / 13 / 2007

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
EASTER 6: GOD'S ASSURED PRESENCE IN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

The words of Jesus recorded in the gospel of John promising comfort, assurance and spiritual presence in the days to come, when he would no longer be physically present with them, are addressed to readers of every age and condition. Once we have begun our faith journey through some mystical, spiritual experience, God's divine providence will see us through.

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And a vision appeared to Paul... A man of Macedonia ... pleaded with him..., "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Now ... immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a ... course to Samothrace, and ... to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia... And on the Sabbath day we went ... to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we ... spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Acts 16:9-15

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

John 14:23-29

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down ... the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations....

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:2