

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

...The miracles performed by the Lord were all signs indicating the state of the Church and of the human race saved through His Coming into the world; that is to say, when He came those people were delivered from hell who received the faith going with charity. These matters are incorporated in the Lord's miracles.

Arcana Celestia #6988.3

The life that evil spirits have and love desperately is the life belonging to the desires that derive from self-love and love of the world – consequently the life that goes with hatred, revenge, and cruelty; and they imagine that no delight can exist in any other kind of life.... The same applies to the devils who, having been cast out of the demoniac by the Lord, begged for fear of their lives to be sent into the pigs (Mark 5:7-13; Luke 8:32). That these were people who during their lifetime had surrendered themselves to foul avarice becomes clear from the fact that such people seem to themselves in the next life to spend their time among pigs. They do so because the life of pigs corresponds to avarice....

Arcana Celestia #1742.2-.3

It is evident ... why it was that those who were possessed by demons were in the sepulchres and came out therefrom (Luke viii. 27), namely, because those who were possessed were, while they lived in the world, in falsities from evil, or in knowledges from the Word, which they rendered dead by applying them to confirm evils, and to destroy the genuine truths of the church, especially the truths concerning the Lord, the Word, and a life after death, which dead knowledges are called, in the Word, traditions. It was for this reason that those who were possessed by such as had become demons, were in the sepulchres, and the demons ... were ... cast out into the swine which cast themselves ... into the sea (Luke 8:33).

Apocalypse Explained #659.6

Every one, while ... led by any love ... supposes himself to be free, whereas it is the diabolical spirits in whose company... one he is, that are carrying them away. This one supposes to be the greatest freedom, so much so that one believes that the loss of this state would bring one into a life most wretched.... But that this impression is false has been given me to know by much experience.... One never comes into a state of freedom until one has been regenerated, and is led by the Lord through love for what is good and true. When one is in this state, then for the first time can he know and perceive what freedom is, because he then knows what life is, and what the true delight of life is, and what happiness is.

Arcana Celestia #892

Deliverance from evils and falsities is signified by “I will cause to go up unto them cure and healing, and I will heal them;” for to be healed spiritually is to be delivered from evils and falsities, and as this is done by the Lord by means of truths it is said, “and I will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth...”

Apocalypse Explained #365.32

When one is being regenerated one becomes completely different from before and is made new.... At that point one's face and speech remain the same, but not so their mind. Once they are regenerate their mind is open towards heaven, and love to the Lord and charity towards the neighbour, together with faith, reside in it.

Arcana Celestia #3212.3

6 / 24 / 2007

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
PENTECOST 4: Jesus Heals A Demon possessed Man

Biblical healings by the Lord of demon possession represent and correspond to His coming to us when we are under the sway of evil spirits or natural desires seeking to lead us into heavenly life. Divine and angelic influences are then able to nudge us toward loving and useful states of mind.

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And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done.... Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do to me ... if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow....” And ... he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba ... and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness.... And he prayed that he might die ... “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”

So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went ... forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb.... And there he went into a cave...; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him..., “What are you doing here, Elijah?” So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces... but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. ...When Elijah heard it, ...he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him..., “What are you doing here, Elijah?” And he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have ... killed Your prophets.... I alone am left....” Then the Lord said to him: “Go, return ... to the Wilderness of Damascus; and ... anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

I Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a

Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes.... And ... there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out ... with a loud voice, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles.... Jesus asked him..., “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down ... into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear....

Luke 8:26-35, 37a