

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

The disciples came to Jesus, to show Him the buildings of the temple; and Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left stone upon stone, which shall not be thrown down (Matt. 24:1, 2; Mark 13:1-5; Luke 21:5-7).

By “the temple” here is signified the church at this day; and by its dissolution that “there is not one stone upon another,” is signified the end of this church, in that no truth whatever would then be left. For when the disciples spoke to the Lord concerning the temple, the Lord foretold the successive states of this church even to its end, or “the consummation of the age,” and by “the consummation of the age” is meant its last time, which is at this day. This was represented by that temple being destroyed to its foundation.

Apocalypse Revealed #191.3

See that you are not led astray. For many will come in My name, saying, I am He;

The time is near. Therefore do not go after them (Luke 21:8).

Truths which come from the Lord never cease to be truths from the Lord in their inward form. But truths which do not come from the Lord appear to be truths only in their outward form, not in their inward form - for inwardly they are either empty, false, or evil. To be the truth, truth must have life within it; for truth devoid of life is not the truth of faith with a person, and life comes from no other source than good, that is, from the Lord by way of good. If therefore the Lord is not within truth it is truth devoid of life, and so is not truth.

Arcana Celestia #8868.2

“Many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall lead many astray. But ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled; for nation shall rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes” (Matt. xxiv. 5-7; Mark xiii. 6-8; Luke xxi 8-11).

This was said by the Lord to the disciples concerning the consummation of the age, which signifies the state of the church at its end ... therefore it also means the successive perversion and falsification of the truth and good of the Word, until nothing remains but falsity and evil therefrom. Those who shall come in His name and call themselves Christ, and shall lead many astray, signify that those shall come who will say that this is Divine Truth, when nevertheless it is truth falsified, which in itself is falsity; for by Christ is meant the Lord as to Divine Truth, but here, in the opposite sense, truth falsified. That they shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, signifies that there will be discussions and contentions about truths, and consequent falsifications.... Wars signify, in the Word, spiritual wars which are combats of falsity against truth, and of truth against falsity....

Apocalypse Explained # 734.24-25

The angels do not know future things; the Lord alone knows them, and those He deigns to reveal them. I before perceived something to be as it were detested when some desired to know future things.... But ... future things are not foretold... One reason only may be adduced: the angels, in order to be in happiness, must not know the least of what is future; for the Lord provides for them what they should think about every instant.

Spiritual Diary #2271

It was foretold in the *Apocalypse* ... that at the end of the former Church, a New Church was to be instituted, in which this would be the chief teaching: that God is One in Person as well as in Essence, in Whom is the Trinity, and that that God is the Lord.

Divine Providence #263

11/ 18 / 2007

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN FUTURE: Destruction of the Temple Foreseen

The Bible does not assure a safe or comfortable future, as far as life in this material world is concerned. Instead, we are assured the Lord will be with us to give us strength and grace to face the future, if we look to Him for guidance and strength. Our past and future are together in each present moment as we build our spiritual character.

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“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them. “It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,” Says the Lord.

Isaiah 65:17-25

Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, “These things which you see--the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.” So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?” And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.” Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience possess your souls.

Luke 21:5-19