

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

The situation with the Lord's spiritual Church is that it is spread throughout the whole world, and wherever it exists varies so far as matters of belief or truths of faith are concerned.... The same applies to the Lord's spiritual kingdom in the heavens-- that is to say, in matters of faith, variety is so great that not one community, not even one member of a community, is in complete agreement with any other in the things which constitute the truths of faith. But for all that, the Lord's spiritual kingdom in the heavens is one, the reason being that with everyone charity is the chief thing, for charity makes the spiritual Church, not faith, unless you say that faith is charity.

Arcana Coelestia #3267

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 one, everyone who is of true faith, or has been regenerated through the life of faith; and therefore are called heaven... and also, 'the kingdom of God,' because the kingdom of God is in them, as the Lord teaches in... 'the kingdom of God comes not with observation... for behold the kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:20-21).

Arcana Coelestia #29.2

... The coming and presence of the Lord in the Word is signified ... because the Word is the Divine truth that proceeds from the Lord, and that which proceeds from the Lord Himself. And therefore they who read the Word and at the same time look to the Lord – acknowledging that all truth and all good are from Him, and nothing from themselves – are enlightened, and see truth and perceive good, from the Word.

Arcana Coelestia #9405

The Lord's presence is perpetual with every one ... but His advent is only with those who receive Him, who are they who believe in Him and do His commandments. The perpetual presence of the Lord causes one to become rational, and to have the ability to become spiritual. One becomes spiritual by the light proceeding from the Lord as a sun, which one receives in the understanding. But the advent of the Lord is with those who conjoin heat to that light.... The mere presence of the Lord, and consequent enlightenment of the understanding may be compared to the presence of the solar light in the world... [while] the advent of the Lord may be compared to the advent of heat in the spring-time.

True Christian Religion #774

'Jehovah will reign for ever and ever' means that the Lord alone is Lord of heaven and earth. This is clear from the consideration that of Jehovah, that is, the Lord, it can be said that 'He will reign for ever and ever'. Of angels it can be said that they will indeed reign, but in the Lord's strength, so that nevertheless it is the Lord alone reigning by means of them. Among the ancients belonging to the Church it was customary to use the saying 'God reigns' or else 'God will reign forever', by which they meant that all is well with the Church because goodness and truth coming from the Divine reside there. In general that saying meant that Jehovah is the only God; and to those who were well informed about the Lord's Coming it meant that the Lord is the only Lord of heaven and earth.

Arcana Coelestia #8331

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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
PENTECOST 25: The Reign of Christ – Christ the King

The Christian celebration of the Reign of Christ, closing each lectionary year on the Sunday next before Advent, invites us to reflect on the principles that guide us and how well we are being led by Divine Truth. As we can always improve, so may this celebration serve to lead into the season of Advent, of preparing the way of the Lord.

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"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord. "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord. "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.' "Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 5:1-5

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Luke 23:33-43