

FROM THE LORD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

“[U]nto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

[T]he Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good (Isaiah 7:14-15).

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots....
“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them...” (Isaiah 11:1,6).

And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts (Malachi 3:1).

He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day: “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (Isaiah 25:8-9).

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you....
The Lord will be to you an everlasting light (Isaiah 60:1, 19)

The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined (Isaiah 9:2).

NEW TESTAMENT

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:4-7).

[The angel said to the shepherds,] “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10, 11).

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord...and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord.... And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation
Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”

(Luke 2:22,24,25-32).

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38).

[A]n angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod.... Then Herod...was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men... (Matthew 2:13-16).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.... He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name...(John 1:1-5,10-13).

“He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

“I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world” (John 12:46,47).

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.... I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:12-13,16).

HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

Why the Lord Came on Earth

The Lord from eternity, who is Jehovah, came into the world to subdue the hells and to glorify His Human. Without this no mortal could have been saved, and those are saved who believe in Him (*True Christian Religion* 2).

The one God who is invisible came into the world and assumed a Human, not only that He might redeem people, but also that He might become visible, that thereby conjunction with people might become possible... (*True Christian Religion* 486:2).

The Lord's affection or love was Divine, and it was directed towards the whole human race which He willed to save to eternity. The nature of the Lord's love surpasses [or transcends] all human understanding (see *Arcana Coelestia* 2077:1, 2).

In a Manger

"A manger" means the doctrine of truth from the Word, because "horses" symbolize the understanding of the Word; and thus a manger, as a feeding place for horses, stands for the doctrine of truth from the Word. It is said that this was done "because there was no place in the inn," an "inn" symbolizing a place of instruction. And this was the case with the Jews, who were then in mere falsities, through adulteration of the Word. This therefore is what is meant by there being no place in the inn. If it had pleased the Lord He might have been born in a most splendid palace, and have been laid in a bed adorned with precious stones... (*Apocalypse Explained* 706:12).

Simeon and Anna

Simeon took the infant Jesus in his arms, and blessed God and said, "My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples (Luke 2:28-31). Here "to bless God" evidently means to glorify and give thanks because the Lord was to come into the world, to save all who receive Him. Consequently he calls the Lord "the salvation" which his eyes saw, which He prepares for all people. Those are called "His people" who are in truths from good, thus who by means of truths receive Him (*Apocalypse Explained* 340:3).

"Salvation unto Him," means that salvation is from Him, since He is salvation. For everything of salvation and of eternal life is from the Lord and is with a person and with an angel. For all the good of love and all the truth of faith with a person are the Lord's with him, and not the person's. For it is the Divine proceeding, which is the Lord in heaven with the angels and in the church with people, and from the good of love and the truth of faith come salvation and eternal life.

This is said of the Lord, who is here called salvation, from the act of saving, and for the reason that He is salvation with man, for so far as the Lord is with man so far man has salvation. So in Luke: "Simeon said, My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples" (2:30, 31). Again, this is why the Lord was called "Jesus," for Jesus means salvation (*Apocalypse Explained* 460:2).

“My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Luke 2:30-32). These words occur in Simeon’s prophecy regarding the Lord after His birth. ‘A light for revelation to the gentiles’ means Divine Truth emanating from the Lord, and ‘the glory of the people Israel’ everything that has been revealed by the Lord—everything regarding Himself, and regarding faith in Him and love to Him—among those who are receptive of these things. Everything that has been so revealed by Him is called ‘the glory’, because it is seen in heaven and in the light there, that light being Divine Truth (*Arcana Coelestia* 10574:9).

A Light to Bring Revelation

The Lord is light, that is, good itself and truth itself, and thus from Him stems all intelligence and wisdom, consequently all salvation (*Arcana Coelestia* 3195:4).

Divine good itself and Divine truth, from which light comes, is the Lord. The Divine Human, which was from eternity (John 17:5) was this light itself. And whereas this light could no longer affect the human race, which had removed itself so far from good and truth, thus from light, and had cast itself into darkness, therefore the Lord willed to put on by birth the human itself (*Arcana Coelestia* 3195:3).

The Lord cannot give His glory to any person and fill him with wisdom and blessedness unless he acknowledges and worships the Lord. For it is by this that a person conjoins himself to the Lord by love and faith (*Apocalypse Explained* 678:2, 3).

The Lord’s Presence with Us

The Lord is present with every person, urging and pressing to be received. His first coming, which is called the dawn, is when a person receives Him, which he does when he acknowledges Him as his God, Creator, Redeemer, and Savior. From this time a person’s understanding begins to be enlightened in spiritual things... (*True Christian Religion* 766).

The Lord’s presence is unceasing with every person, both the evil and the good, for without His presence no person lives. But His Coming is only to those who receive Him, who are such as believe on Him and keep His commandments. The Lord’s unceasing presence causes a person to become rational, and gives him the ability to become spiritual. This is brought about by the light that goes forth from the Lord... (*True Christian Religion* 774).

Through believing in the Lord is effected conjunction with Him, by which comes salvation. To believe in Him is to have confidence that He will save, and as no one can have this confidence except one who lives aright, therefore this also is meant by believing in Him (*Doctrine of Faith* 36).

What is faith in God but a looking to Him, and His consequent presence, and at the same time confidence that He gives aid? And what is true faith but this and also a confidence that all good is from Him, and that He causes His good to become saving? So when this faith conjoins itself with good the verdict is for eternal life (*True Christian Religion* 655).