

FROM THE LORD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (Genesis 49:10).

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet...” (Deuteronomy 18:15).

“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 24:17).

“[T]he virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2).

“[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...” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:1-2).

“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 11:6).

[I]t 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 25:9).

Behold, the Lord will come with a strong hand... He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm (Isaiah 40:10,11).

“I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! ... His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away” (Daniel 7:13, 14).

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel” (Micah 5:2).

“[T]he Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, ‘He is coming’” (Malachi 3:1).

“[T]o you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2).

NEW TESTAMENT

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.... [A]n angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and They shall call His name 'Immanuel'" (Matthew 1:18,20-22).

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:1-2).

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.... [T]hrough the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:68,69,78,79).

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.... Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.... He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:26-28, 31,33).

[The angel said to the shepherds] "[B]ehold, 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 2:11,13,14).

[Said by Simeon when He saw the baby Lord]"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 2:25-32).

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 darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.... That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world (John 1:1-5,9).

"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..." (John 16:13).

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.... It was frequently declared in the Prophets that Jehovah Himself would come into the world, and would be a Redeemer; which He also became in the Human which he assumed (*True Christian Religion* 486:2).

After all the heavenly qualities in a human being had perished, that is, all love to God, so that there was no longer any will of good, then the human race had been separated from the Divine.... Therefore the promise was then made respecting the Lord's coming into the world, who would unite the Human to the Divine, and by this union would bring about in Himself the conjunction of the human race by means of the faith of love and of charity (*Arcana Coelestia* 2034:6).

Jehovah God came down into the world as Divine truth, in order that He might work redemption. And redemption consisted in subjugating the hells, restoring the heavens to order, and after this establishing a church. The Divine good is inadequate to bring this about. It can be done only by the Divine truth from the Divine good. The Divine good, viewed in itself, is like the round hilt of a sword, or a blunt piece of wood, or a bow without arrows. Whereas Divine truth from Divine good is like a sharp sword, or wood in the form of a spear, or a bow with its arrows, all of which are effective against an enemy (*True Christian Religion* 86).

When there was no longer any faith of love remaining in the whole world, then the Lord came and united the Human Essence to the Divine Essence, so that they were altogether one, as He Himself clearly says. And at the same time He taught the way of truth, that every one who would believe in Him—that is, who would love Him and the things that are His, and who would be in His love, which is love toward the universal human race, thus in love toward the neighbor—would be conjoined and saved (*Arcana Coelestia* 2034:7).

Foretelling the Lord's Advent

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness...” (Isaiah 40:3). “The voice” here denotes annunciation from the Word about the coming of the Lord, thus it also denotes the Divine truth which the Word announces. “The wilderness” denotes the state of the church at that time, which was as it were in the wilderness because the Word was no longer understood. “The glory which shall be revealed” denotes the Word as to its interiors (*Arcana Coelestia* 9926:4).

[Zacharias prophesied] “The dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and...to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:67, 78-79). This was said of the Lord about to come into the world.... The Lord is meant by “the dayspring from on high” and...illustration in Divine truths through the reception of the Lord and conjunction with Him,

whence are heaven and eternal happiness is meant by “the way of peace” and “guiding our feet into it” means instruction (*Apocalypse Explained* 365:10).

In Isaiah [we read]: “Behold, the Lord Jehovah cometh in strength. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs into His arm...” (Isaiah 40:10-11). This treats of the Lord’s coming. The “flock that He shall feed as a shepherd” symbolize those who are in the good of charity. The “lambs that He shall gather into His arm” symbolize those who are in love to Him (see *Apocalypse Explained* 314:2).

“Salvation unto Him,” means that salvation is from the Lord, since He is salvation. For everything of salvation and of eternal life is from the Lord and is with people and angels. 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 (*Apocalypse Explained* 460:2).

Being innocence itself and Love itself the Lord Himself is called a Little One or Little Child in Isa. 9:6, where He is also referred to as Wonderful, Counselor, God, the Mighty One, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (*Arcana Coelestia* 430:2).

“Coming into the world for judgment” stands for coming to reveal Divine Truth, which gives people vision if the Lord is the source of their wisdom... (*Arcana Coelestia* 9857:9).

How Prophecies Instructed the Lord

It is well known that the Lord was born like anyone else and that when He was a young child he learned to talk like any other young child, after which He grew in knowledge, and also in intelligence and wisdom (*Arcana Coelestia* 6716).

In the internal sense of the Word the Lord’s whole life is described, such as it was to be in the world, even as to the perceptions and thoughts, for these were foreseen and provided because from the Divine (*Arcana Coelestia* 2523).

[T]he Lord possessed all truth previous to His instruction...but this truth was stored up in the Lord’s internal man, which was Divine. The knowledges that He learned are not truths, but are only recipient vessels.... These vessels were to be formed, or rather to be opened, by the Lord, through instruction in knowledges from the Word; not only that celestial things might be insinuated into them, but also that the celestial things might in this way be made Divine; for the Lord conjoined the Divine Essence with the Human Essence in order that His Human things might likewise be made Divine (*Arcana Coelestia* 1469).

“The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light”

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. For in this way He could light up not only the rational [ideas] but also natural [ideas] of a person in the world. For He made both the rational and the natural [levels of the mind] in Himself Divine, in order that He might also be a light to those who were in such gross darkness (*Arcana Coelestia* 3195:3).

“[T]he glory of the Lord” means to enlighten angels and people, and to bestow intelligence and wisdom, and to bless with felicities and delights.... Nevertheless, the Lord cannot give His glory to anyone 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).

While in the world the Lord was Divine Truth, but once He was glorified, that is, had made the Human within Him Divine, He became Divine Good, from which Divine Truth subsequently goes forth (*Arcana Coelestia* 4973:5).

The Lord’s Presence with Us

The Lord is present with every man, urging and pressing to be received; and His first coming, which is called the dawn, is when man 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).

“[T]hink of God from His essence, and from that of His Person, and not from His Person, and from this of His essence, for to think of His essence from Person, is to think materially of His essence also; but to think of His Person from essence, is to think spiritually even of His Person” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 611:7).

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 as the sun in the spiritual world. The person receives this light in his understanding. That light is truth, and by means of it the person has rationality. But the Lord’s coming is to him who joins heat with that light, that is, love with truth. For the heat that goes forth from that same sun is love to God and love toward the neighbor. The mere presence of the Lord, and the resulting enlightenment of the understanding, may be likened to the presence of solar light in the world. Unless this light is joined with heat all things on earth become desolate. But the coming of the Lord may be likened to the coming of heat, which takes place in spring. Because heat then joins itself with light, the earth is softened, and seeds sprout and bring forth fruit. Such is the parallelism between the spiritual things which are the environment of a person’s spirit, and the natural things which are the environment of his body (*True Christian Religion* 774).