

*New Church Day Readings*



**2026**

# 1

After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven. And the first voice which I heard as of a trumpet speaking with me said, Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass

hereafter. And straightway I was in the spirit. And behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne. And He who sat was to the sight like a jasper and a sardius stone; and there was a rainbow all around the throne, to the sight like an emerald. (*Revelation 4:1-3*)

*And He that sat was in appearance like a jasper and sardius stone* signifies the appearance of the Lord's Divine wisdom and Divine love in ultimates. "A stone," in the Word, signifies truth in ultimates, and "a precious stone," truth transparent from good. There are two colors fundamental to the rest in the spiritual world, the color white and the color red. The color white derives its origin from the light of the sun in heaven, thus from spiritual light, which is shining white; and the color red derives its origin from the fire of the sun there, thus from celestial light, which is flaming... "The jasper," because it is shining white, signifies the things which are of the truth of wisdom; and "the sardius," because it is red, the things which are of the good of love. These stones signify the appearance of the Divine wisdom and the Divine love in ultimates, because all precious stones in heaven derive their origin from the ultimates of the Word, and their transparency from the spiritual sense of the ultimates. (*Apocalypse Revealed 231*)

*And a rainbow was round about the throne in aspect like an emerald,* signifies the appearance of Divine truth in the heavens around the Lord. This is evident from the signification of "a rainbow in aspect like an emerald," as denoting the appearance of Divine truth in its circumference; for "a rainbow round about the throne" signifies Divine truth round about; "in aspect like" signifies appearance. The appearance was like an emerald because it had reference to the Last Judgment; for the color of this stone is green, and "green" signifies truth obscured... The heaven that was obscured was the heaven called "the former heaven," on which judgment was to be executed, and which was about to perish. (*Apocalypse Explained 269*)

And all around the throne were twenty and four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty and four elders sitting, arrayed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And out of the throne went out lightnings and thunders and voices; and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. And in the sight of the throne there was a sea of glass like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne were four animals, full with eyes before and behind. (*Revelation 4:4-6*)

By the twelve tribes of Israel and their elders are signified all who are of the Lord's church in the heavens and on earth, and, abstractly, all the truths and goods therein... "Twelve" signifies all, and is predicated of the truths and goods of heaven and the church; the same is signified by "twenty-four"; therefore "the twelve apostles" and the "twenty-four elders" signify all things of the church; and "twelve," as also "twenty-four thrones," signify the all of judgment.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 233.2*)

*And out of the throne proceeded lightnings, and thunders, and voices,* signifies enlightenment, perception, and instruction from the Lord. (*Apocalypse Revealed 236*)

*And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal,* signifies the New Heaven from Christians who are in general truths from the literal sense of the Word. In the spiritual world there appear atmospheres, and also waters, like as in our world. The atmospheres in which the angels of the highest heaven dwell are as it were ethereal; the atmospheres in which the angels of the middle heaven dwell are as it were aerial; and the atmospheres in which the angels of the lowest heaven dwell are as it were aqueous; and these last appear as seas at the boundaries of heaven, where they dwell who are in general truths from the literal sense of the Word. (*Apocalypse Revealed 238*)

# 3

And the first animal was like a lion, and the second animal like a calf, and the third animal having a face as a man, and the fourth animal was like a flying eagle. And the four animals, each one by itself, had six wings

around it; and they were full of eyes inside; and they had no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who is to come.

*(Revelation 4:7-8)*

*And in the midst of the throne and round about the throne, there were four animals, signifies the Word of the Lord from firsts in last things, and its guards... Full of eyes before and behind, signifies the Divine wisdom (Apocalypse Revealed 239-40)*

*And the first animal was like a lion, signifies the Divine truth of the Word as to power...*

*And the second animal like a calf, signifies the Divine truth of the Word as to affection...*

*And the third animal having a face like a man, signifies the Divine truth of the Word as to wisdom...*

*And the fourth animal was like a flying eagle, signifies the Divine truth of the Word as to knowledges, and thence understanding...*

*(Apocalypse Revealed 241-244)*

*And the four animals each by himself had six wings around it, signifies the Word as to its powers and as to its guards. That by "the four animals" the Word is signified, was shown above; that by wings are signified powers, and also guards, will be seen below. By "six" is signified all as to truth and good, for six is composed of "three" and "two" multiplied together, and by "three" is signified all as to truth, and by "two" all as to good. By "wings" are signified powers, because by them birds lift themselves up, and wings with birds are in the place of arms with men, and by "arms" are signified powers.*

*(Apocalypse Revealed 245)*

And when the animals gave glory and honor and thanks to Him who sat on the throne, who lives for ages of ages, the twenty and four elders fell down before Him who sat on the throne, and worshiped Him who lives for ages of ages, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou hast created all things, and by Thy will they are, and were created. (*Revelation 4:9-11*)

*The four-and-twenty elders fell down before Him that sat upon the throne and adored Him who lives for ages of ages,* signifies the humbling of all in heaven before the Lord. (*Apocalypse Revealed 251*)

*And cast their crowns before the throne,* signifies the acknowledgment that their wisdom is from Him alone. (*Apocalypse Revealed 252*)

*Saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive the glory, and the honor, and the power,* signifies merit and justice belonging to the Lord's Divine Human, that from it is all Divine truth and Divine good and salvation. This is evident from the signification of "Thou art worthy, O Lord," as being merit and justice belonging to the Lord's Divine Human; also from the signification of "glory and honor," as referring to the Lord's Divine truth and Divine good, which are from Him; also from the signification of "power," as being salvation....

"Power" here signifies salvation because all Divine power looks to salvation as an end; for by Divine power man is reformed, and afterwards introduced into heaven, and there withheld from evil and falsity and held in good and truth; and only the Lord can bring this about. Those who claim for themselves the power to make this happen are wholly ignorant of what salvation is, for they do not know what reformation is, nor what heaven with man is. To claim to oneself the Lord's power is to claim power over the Lord Himself; this power is called "the power of darkness." (*Apocalypse Explained 293*)

# 5

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel preaching with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose its seals? And no one in heaven, nor on earth, neither underneath the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look at it. And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look at it. (*Revelation 5:1-4*)

*Sealed with seven seals*, signifies that it is altogether hidden from angel and man.... Such is the Word to all to whom the Lamb, that is, the Lord, does not open it. Here, because the exploration of all before the Last Judgment is treated of, it is the states of life of all, in general and in particular, which are altogether hidden. (*Apocalypse Revealed 257*)

*Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof?* signifies, Who has power to know the states of life of all in the heavens and on the earth, and to judge everyone according to his state? “Who is worthy?” signifies who is able, or who has the power? “to open the book and to loose the seals thereof,” signifies here to know the states of life of all in the heavens and on the earth, and also to judge everyone according to his state; for when “the book is opened,” there is an examination into their quality, and then sentence or judgment, comparatively as a judge acts with a book of the law and according to it. (*Apocalypse Revealed 259*)

*And I wept much because no one was found to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon*, signifies grief of heart, because if no one could do it, all must perish. That “to weep much” is to grieve at heart, is evident. The reason why he grieved at heart was because otherwise, all would have perished; for if all things in the heavens and on the earth were not reduced to order by the Last Judgment, it could not be otherwise; for Revelation treats of the last state of the church, when it comes to its end. (*Apocalypse Revealed 263*)

And one of the elders says to me, Weep not; behold, the Lion which is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, to be able to open the book, and to loose its seven seals. And I saw, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four animals, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. And when He had taken the book, the four animals and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, every one of them having harps, and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. (*Revelation 5:5-8*)

*Which is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, signifies by the Divine good united to the Divine truth in His Human. By "Judah," in the Word, is meant the church which is in the good of love to the Lord, and in the highest sense the Lord as to the Divine good of the Divine love; and by "David" is meant the Lord as to the Divine truth of the Divine wisdom.... Hence it appears that by "Behold, the Lion which is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered," is signified that the Lord overcame the hells and reduced all things to order by the Divine good united to the Divine truth in His Human. (*Apocalypse Revealed 266*)*

*Having seven horns, signifies His omnipotence. "A horn" is frequently mentioned in the Word, and by it is everywhere signified power; therefore when "a horn" is predicated of the Lord, it signifies omnipotence. The reason why "seven horns" are mentioned, is, because "seven" signifies all, thus omnipotence. (*Apocalypse Revealed 270*)*

# 7

And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open its seals, because Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God in Thy blood, out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and

nation. And Thou hast made us to our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth. And I saw, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and the animals and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands; saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. (*Revelation 5:9-12*)

*And they sang a new song*, signifies acknowledgment and glorification of the Lord, that He alone is the Judge, Redeemer, and Savior, thus the God of heaven and earth. These things are contained in the song which they sang, and the things which are contained are also signified... Since the acknowledgment that the Lord alone is the God of heaven and earth, and that His Human is Divine, and that in no other way could He be called the Redeemer and Savior, was not in the church before, it is therefore called a “new song.” (*Apocalypse Revealed 279*)

*Out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation*, signifies that those in the church or in any religion, who are in truths as to doctrine and in goods as to life, are redeemed by the Lord. (*Apocalypse Revealed 282*)

*And hast made us unto our God kings and priests*, signifies that from the Lord they are in wisdom from Divine truths and in love from Divine goods, and thus images of His Divine wisdom and of His Divine love, as above. (*Apocalypse Revealed 283*)

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and underneath the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, for ages of ages. And the four animals said, Amen. And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives for ages of ages. (*Revelation 5:13-14*)

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and honor, and glory,* signifies confession from the heart, that the Lord as to the Divine Human has omnipotence, omniscience, Divine good, and Divine truth. “To say with a great voice,” signifies confession from the heart; “Thou art worthy,” signifies that in Him are the things which follow; “The Lamb” signifies the Lord as to the Divine Human; “power” signifies the Divine power, which is omnipotence; “riches and wisdom,” signify Divine knowledge and wisdom, which are omniscience; “honor and glory,” signify the Divine good and the Divine truth. That “riches” signify the knowledges of good and truth, and thus science, may be seen above (*Apocalypse Revealed 288*)

*And every created thing which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying,* signifies confession and glorification of the Lord by the angels of the lowest heavens. That this is a confession and glorification of the Lord by the angels of the lowest heavens is evident from the series, because the confessions and glorifications of the Lord which precede were made by the angels of the higher and lower heavens; for there are three heavens, and innumerable societies in each, and each of them is called a heaven. (*Apocalypse Revealed 290*)

*And the four animals said, Amen,* signifies Divine confirmation from the Word. “The four animals” or cherubs signify the Word... (*Apocalypse Revealed 292*)

# 9

And I saw when the Lamb had opened the first of the seals, and I heard one of the four animals saying, as with a voice of thunder, Come and look. And I saw, and behold, a white horse; and he who sat upon him had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering and to conquer. (*Revelation 6:1-2*)

*And I heard one of the four animals saying as with a voice of thunder,* signifies according to the Divine truth of the Word. [B]y “the four animals,” or “cherubim,” is meant the Word, and by “a voice of thunder,” the perception of the Divine truth. It is here said “a voice of thunder,” because by this animal is meant the lion, by which is signified the Divine truth of the Word as to power.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 296*)

*And I saw, and behold, a white horse,* signifies the understanding of truth and good from the Word with these [people]. By “horse” is signified the understanding of the Word, and by “a white horse” the understanding of truth from the Word; for white is predicated of truth. (*Apocalypse Revealed 298*)

*And he that sat upon him had a bow,* signifies that they had the doctrine of truth and good from the Word, from which they fought against the falsities and evils which are from hell, thus against hell. (*Apocalypse Revealed 299*)

*And a crown was given unto him,* signifies his badge of combat. “A crown” signifies a badge of combat, because in ancient times kings wore crowns in battle, as may appear from history.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 300*)

*And he went forth conquering and to conquer,* signifies victory over falsities and evils to eternity. It is said “conquering and to conquer,” because he who in spiritual combats, which are temptations, conquers in this world, conquers to eternity, for the hells cannot assault anyone who has conquered them. (*Apocalypse Revealed 301*)

And when He had opened the second seal, I heard the second animal saying, Come and look. And there came out another horse that was red. And it was given to him who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another. And there was given to him a great sword. (*Revelation 6:3-4*)

By “a horse” is signified the understanding of the Word; and by “red” [*rufus*] is signified good destroyed.... That the color red [*ruber*] is predicated of goods because it is from the fire of the sun of heaven may be seen above (n. 167, 231). But the reason why “red” is predicated of good destroyed is because by [this] red [*rufus*] an infernal red is meant, which is from infernal fire, which is the love of evil. The red that is an infernal red is hideous and abominable, there being nothing alive in it, but all dead.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 305*)

*And it was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth*, signifies the taking away of charity, spiritual security, and internal rest. By “peace” are signified all things in their aggregate which are from the Lord, and thence all things of heaven and the church, and the happiness of life in them; these are of peace in the highest or inmost sense. It follows therefore that “peace” is charity, spiritual security, and internal rest. For when man is in the Lord, he is in peace with his neighbor, which is charity; in protection against the hells, which is spiritual security; and when he is in peace with his neighbor, and in protection against the hells, he is in internal rest from evils and falsities. Since therefore all these are from the Lord, it may appear what is signified in general and in particular by “peace”.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 306*)

*And there was given unto him a great sword*, signifies the destruction of truth by the falsities of evil.... “A sword” [*gladius*], “saber” [*machaera*], and “long sword” [*romphaea*] signify truth combating against falsities and destroying them, and in the opposite sense, falsity combating against truths and destroying them. Here “a great sword” signifies the falsities of evil destroying the truths of good. They are called falsities of evil, because there are falsities which are not falsities of evil, and the latter do not destroy truths, but the former do. (*Apocalypse Revealed 308*)

And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third animal saying, Come and look. And I saw, and behold, a black horse; and he that sat upon him had a balance in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four animals saying, A choenix of wheat for a denarius, and three choenix of barley for a denarius; and hurt not the oil and the wine. (*Revelation 6:5-6*)

*And I saw, and behold, a black horse*, signifies the understanding of the Word destroyed as to truth, thus as to doctrine with these. That “a horse” signifies the understanding of the Word was shown above. The reason why “black” signifies what is not true, thus falsity, is because black is the opposite of white, and white is predicated of truth (n. 167, 231, 232); white also derives its origin from light, and black from darkness, thus from the absence of light, and light is truth. But in the spiritual world there exists blackness from a twofold origin, one from the absence of flaming light, the light which is with those who are in the Lord’s celestial kingdom, and the other from the absence of bright light, which is the light with those who are in the Lord’s spiritual kingdom. The latter blackness has the same signification as “darkness,” but the former as “thick darkness.” (*Apocalypse Revealed 312*)

*And he that sat upon him had a pair of balances in his hand*, signifies the valuation of good and truth, of what kind it was with these. (*Apocalypse Revealed 313*)

*A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny*, signifies because the valuation of good and truth is so small as to be scarcely anything. (*Apocalypse Revealed 315*)

*And hurt not the oil and the wine*, signifies that it is provided by the Lord that the holy goods and truths, which lie interiorly concealed in the Word, shall not be violated and profaned. “Oil” signifies the good of love, and “wine” truth from that good, therefore “oil” signifies holy good, and “wine” holy truth. “Hurt them not,” signifies that it is provided by the Lord that they shall not be violated and profaned.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 316*)

And when He had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth animal saying, Come and look. And I saw, and behold, a pale horse; and his name who sat on it was Death, and hell followed with him; and authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with famine, and with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (*Revelation 6:7-8*)

*And I saw, and behold, a pale horse*, signifies the understanding of the Word destroyed both as to good and as to truth... In the Word, this want of vitality is predicated of those who are not in goods of life from truths of doctrine, for the Word, in the sense of the letter, is not understood without doctrine, and doctrine is not perceived without a life according to it. The reason is because a life according to doctrine that is from the Word opens the spiritual mind, when light flows into it from heaven and enlightens and gives to perceive. That this is the case, [a person] does not know who knows truths of doctrine and yet does not live according to them. (*Apocalypse Revealed 320*)

*And his name that sat upon him was Death, and hell followed with him*, signifies the extinction of spiritual life, and thence damnation. By “death” is here signified spiritual death, which is the extinction of spiritual life; and by “hell” is signified damnation, which follows that death. (*Apocalypse Revealed 321*)

*And power was given them over the fourth part of the earth to kill*, signifies the destruction of all the good of the church.... With sword and with hunger, and with death, and by the beasts of the earth, signifies by falsities of doctrine, by evils of life, by the love of the proprium, and by lusts.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 322-3*)

# 13

And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they had. And they cried out with a great voice, saying, Till when, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? And white robes were given to each of them; and it was declared to them that they should rest yet a little time, until their fellow servants also, and their brothers, who would be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. (*Revelation 6:9-11*)

*And when He had opened the fifth seal*, signifies exploration by the Lord of the states of life of those who were to be saved at the day of the Last Judgment, and in the meantime were reserved. (*Apocalypse Revealed 322*)

*I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held*, signifies those who were hated, reproached and rejected by the evil on account of their life according to the truths of the Word, and their acknowledgment of the Lord's Divine Human, and who were guarded by the Lord lest they be seduced.... Since they were "under the altar," it is evident they were guarded by the Lord; for they who have led any life of charity are all guarded by the Lord lest they be injured by the evil; and after the Last Judgment, when the evil have been removed, they are released from the guards and elevated into heaven. I have frequently seen them, since the Last Judgment, liberated from the lower earth and taken up into heaven. (*Apocalypse Revealed 325.1-2*)

*Saying, How long, O Lord, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?* signifies, by reason that the Last Judgment is delayed, and they who offer violence to the Word and to the Lord's Divine Human are not removed. (*Apocalypse Revealed 327*)

*And white robes were given unto each of them*, signifies that there was given them a communication and conjunction with the angels who were in Divine truths.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 328*)

And I saw when He had opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs, when shaken by a great wind. And the heaven departed as a book rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great ones, and the rich, and the commanders of a thousand, and the powerful, and every servant, and every freeman, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall upon us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits upon the throne, and from the anger of the Lamb, because the great day of His anger is come, and who shall be able to stand? (*Revelation 6:12-17*)

*And, behold, there was a great earthquake*, signifies the state of the church with these altogether changed, and terror. (*Apocalypse Revealed 311*)

The sun is red from fire, and the moon is white from the light of the sun; and fire signifies the good of love, and light, the truth from that good. It is said, “the sun became black as sackcloth of hair,” because adulterated good in itself is evil, and evil is black; and the reason why it is said “the moon became as blood,” is because “blood” signifies the Divine truth, and in the opposite sense, the Divine truth falsified.... (*Apocalypse Revealed 332*)

*And the stars of heaven fell to the earth*, signifies the dispersion of all the knowledges of good and truth. (*Apocalypse Revealed 333*)

*Hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains...* signifies to be in evils and in the falsities of evil, because they who have pretended before the world that they were in the good of love, and yet were in evil, after death hide themselves in caves; and they who have pretended that they were in the truths of faith, and yet were in the falsities of evil, hide themselves in the rocks of the mountains. The entrances appear like holes in the earth and like clefts in the mountains, into which they betake themselves like serpents, and there hide themselves. That such are their abiding places I have frequently seen. (*Apocalypse Revealed 338*)

# 15

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the land, holding the four winds of the land, that the wind should not blow on the land, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God. And he cried out with a great voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the land and the sea, saying, Hurt not the land, neither the sea, nor the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. (*Revelation 7:1-3*)

*Holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth...* signifies a withholding and restraining by the Lord of a nearer and thence more powerful influx into the lower parts, where the good were conjoined with the evil. It is to be known that the Last Judgment takes place when the evil are multiplied below the heavens in the world of spirits, to such a degree that the angels in the heavens cannot subsist in their state of love and wisdom; for in this case they have no support and no foundation. And as this is caused by the multiplication of the evil below, therefore the Lord, in order to preserve their state, flows in with His Divine more and more strongly, and this continues until they can no longer be preserved by any influx, without a separation of the evil below from the good. This is effected by the letting down and drawing near of the heavens, and thence by a stronger influx, until at length the evil cannot endure it; and then the evil flee away, and cast themselves into hell. (*Apocalypse Revealed 343*)

*Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees,* signifies the preventing and withholding by the Lord of a nearer and stronger influx into the lower parts... For the Lord, by various degrees of influx into the heavens, disposes, regulates, tempers, and moderates all things there and in the hells, and, through the heavens and the hells, all things in the world. (*Apocalypse Revealed 346*)

*Till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads,* signifies before those who are in truths from good from the Lord, thus who are interiorly good, are separated [from the evil] (*Apocalypse Revealed 347*)

And I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144 thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. Of the tribe of Judah were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Asher were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed 12 thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed 12 thousand. (*Revelation 7:4-8*)

*And I heard the number of them which were sealed, a hundred and forty and four thousand, signifies all who acknowledge the Lord to be the God of heaven and earth, and are in truths of doctrine from the good of love from Him through the Word... That all numbers signify the adjuncts of things, determining their quality or quantity, may appear manifest from numbers in Revelation, which, if they were without some specific signification, would yield no sense whatever in many places. From what has been said it may be seen that by “one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed,” and by “twelve thousand out of each tribe,” is not to be understood that this many were sealed and chosen out of the tribes of Israel, but all who are in the truths of doctrine from the good of love from the Lord. (*Apocalypse Revealed 348:1-2*)*

*Sealed out of every tribe of Israel signifies the Lord’s heaven and church from them. By a “tribe” is signified religion as to the good of life, and by “every tribe” is signified the church as to every good of love and as to every truth from that good, from which is the good of life. For there are two things which make the church, the good of love and the truth of doctrine; the marriage of these is the church. The twelve tribes of Israel represented and thence signified the church as to that marriage, and each tribe some universal truth of good or good of truth in it. (*Apocalypse Revealed 349*)*

# 17

After these things, I saw, and behold, a crowd of many which no one could number, of every nation, and all tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, arrayed with white robes, and palms in their hands, and crying out with a great voice, saying, Salvation to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb! And all the angels stood around the throne, and the elders, and the four animals, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying, Amen; blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and strength, be to our God, for ages of ages; amen. (*Revelation 7:9-12*)

*After this I saw, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could number, signifies all the rest who are not of those enumerated, and yet are in the Lord's New Heaven and New Church, being those who make the ultimate heaven and the external church, whose quality no one knows but the Lord alone...*

Before the Lord, the whole heaven together with the church on the earth, is as one Man. And because it is as one Man, there are those there who make the head, and thus the face with all its organs of the senses; and there are those who make the body with all its members. Those who are enumerated above make the face with all its organs of the senses; but these now mentioned are those who make the body with all its members...

The Lord's church is also internal and external. Those who are meant by "the twelve tribes of Israel" are those who make the Lord's internal church, but they who are now mentioned are those who make the external church, and they cohere as one with those enumerated above as lower things with higher, thus as the body does with the head. Therefore the twelve tribes of Israel signify the higher heavens and also the internal church, but these [the crowd of many] signify the lower heavens and the external church. (*Apocalypse Revealed 363.1-3*)

*Of every nation, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, signifies all in the Christian world, who are in religion from good and in truths from doctrine. (Apocalypse Revealed 365)*

And one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said to him, Lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they who come out of great affliction, and have washed their robes, and whitened their robes in the blood of the Lamb. On this account they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall dwell in a tabernacle among them. They shall not hunger any more, neither shall they thirst anymore, neither shall the sun fall on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne shall shepherd them, and shall guide them to living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes. (*Revelation 7:13-17*)

*Who are these that are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? And I said unto him, Lord, thou knowest,* signifies the desire of knowing, and the will to ask, and the answer and information. The reason why John was questioned concerning these things is because it is common in all Divine worship that man should first will, desire, and pray, and the Lord then answer, inform, and do; otherwise, man does not receive anything Divine. (*Apocalypse Revealed 376*)

By “washing,” in the Word, is signified to cleanse from evils and falsities; and by “robes” are signified general truths (n. 328). General truths are the knowledges of good and truth from the sense of the letter of the Word, according to which they have lived, and thence they are religious principles; and as every religious principle relates to good and truth, therefore robes are mentioned twice, namely, “they have washed their robes” and “have made their robes white.” “Robes,” or religious principles, are cleansed only with those who fight against evils, and so reject falsities; thus by temptations, which are signified by “great affliction.” (*Apocalypse Revealed 378*)

It is said, “they made white their robes in the blood of the Lamb,” because “white” is predicated of truths, thus, that they purified falsities by truths. It also signifies that thus they were reformed by the Lord, because all who have fought against evils in the world and have believed in the Lord, after their departure out of the world are taught by the Lord, and are withdrawn from the falsities of their religion by truths, and thus are reformed....

...Because in this way the Lord fully glorified His Human, that is made it Divine, therefore nothing else can be meant by His “flesh” and “blood” but the Divine in Him and from Him; by “flesh,” the Divine good of the Divine love, and by “blood,” the Divine truth from that good. (*Apocalypse Revealed 379*)

# 19

And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (*Revelation 8:1*)

*There was silence in heaven*, signifies astonishment that the church is such and that its end is at hand. This is evident from what follows, which describes the destruction of the church and the damnation of all in whom there was no church; that is, in whom there was no conjunction of truth and good or of faith and charity; for this conjunction makes the church in everyone. As these things, when the seventh seal was opened, were perceived in heaven, and therefore engaged the minds of angels, there was astonishment, and from astonishment silence. (*Apocalypse Explained 487*)

And I, John, saw the holy city New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.... And I saw no temple in her; for the Lord God Almighty is her temple, and the Lamb. And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to shine in her, for the glory of God enlightened her, and her lamp is the Lamb. (*Revelation 21:2,22-23*)

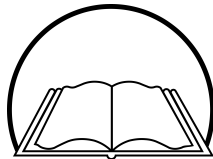
When the end of the church is at hand, then it is provided by the Lord that a New Church shall succeed, for without a church in which is the Word and in which the Lord is known, the world cannot subsist; for without the Word, and from it the knowledge and acknowledgment of the Lord, heaven cannot be conjoined to the human race, nor therefore can the Divine proceeding from the Lord flow in with new life; and without conjunction with heaven and through that with the Lord, man would not be a man, but a beast. This is why a New Church is always provided by the Lord when an old church comes to its end. (*Apocalypse Explained 665*)

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*And I John saw the holy city New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, signifies the New Church to be established by the Lord at the end of the former church, which will be consociated with the New Heaven in Divine truths as to doctrine and as to life. The reason why John here names himself, saying, "I John," is because by him as an apostle is signified the good of love to the Lord and thence the good of life... It is called "new" because He who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new" (verse 5); and it is said "to come down from God out of heaven" because it descends from the Lord through the New Christian Heaven.... (Apocalypse Revealed 879)*

*And there shall be no night there, and they have no need of a lamp and the light of the sun, for the Lord giveth them light, signifies that there will not be any falsity of faith in the New Jerusalem, and that men there will not be in knowledges concerning God from natural light, which is from their own intelligence, and from glory arising from pride, but will be in spiritual light from the Word from the Lord alone.... (Apocalypse Revealed 940)*

# Kempton New Church



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