

General Church Education



The Heaven of the Golden Age

Conjugal Love 75

Lesson 24

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE HEAVEN OF THE GOLDEN AGE

CONJUGIAL LOVE 75

Today's lesson describes Swedenborg's visit to the heaven of the people who, while living in the world, were part of the Most Ancient Church. The description of this heaven is found in the book *Conjugial Love 75*. The people who lived in this "Golden Age" had true and innocent love to the Lord. Their perception of the Lord's truth and His love were immediately from Him. There was no need for a written Word. They were able to immediately respond to the Lord on every level of their life.

IDEA FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can be inspired by the blessed state of the angels in our story. Their serenity and beauty is the Lord's wish for all humanity. When we go to heaven, He will give us as many of these blessings as we are ready to receive. This important concept can serve as a counterbalance to the cynical sense of helplessness children may encounter in the world around them as they grow up.

FROM THE WRITINGS

The life of our dominant love never changes to eternity because we are that love, so to change it in any spirit would be to take away his or her life. After death we can no longer be reformed by being taught in the way we could in this world, since the outmost level, made up of natural insights and affections is then dormant and cannot be opened because it is not spiritual. The deeper functions of the mind or spirit rest on this level the way a house rests on its foundation, which is why we do stay forever like the life of our life in the world. See *Heaven and Hell* 480

Among angels everything looks as though it is gleaming with gold, silver, and precious stones; and this is owing to the intelligent understanding of truth and wise discernment of good they possess. For the inner abilities which angels possess present themselves visually through objects that correspond to these abilities. *Arcana Coelestia* 10227

The angels of the third heaven are in love to the Lord, and that love opens the interiors of the mind to the third degree, and is a receptacle of all things of wisdom. They do not store up Divine truths in the memory but as soon as they hear them they perceive them and apply them to life. See *Heaven and Hell* 271

Among the ancients the face meant internal things, for it is through the face that internal things shine forth. What is more, people in most ancient times were such that the face was in complete accord with internal things, so that anyone could see from another person's face the character of his disposition or mind. *Arcana Coelestia* 358

THE HEAVEN OF THE GOLDEN AGE

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The most ancient people on earth lived in a time called the Golden Age.

These people were beautiful because they loved the Lord.

He gave them a most precious gift, Conjugal Love, or True Marriage Love.

The heaven of the Golden Age is closest to the Lord.

We can't tell about the spiritual life of anyone in this world by looking at them. However, after death, it is different. When people first come to the world of spirits, they look as they did in the natural world. Gradually, as good spirits learn about the Lord and turn to Him, they become more and more beautiful. Their faces show their love for the Lord and the neighbor.

Things were not always like this. Long ago, when the first people were living on the earth, everyone loved the Lord. They were part of what is called the Most Ancient Church and lived at the time of the Golden Age. Everyone was beautiful. Their faces in this world mirrored their love to the Lord. The people of the Most Ancient Church spoke directly to the Lord and to angels. The Word was written on their hearts. The heaven where the people of the Golden Age live now is closest to the Lord. It is called the "celestial heaven."

The Lord allowed Emanuel Swedenborg to visit the heaven of the Most Ancient Church to visit the people of the Golden Age. An angel guide led him across a desert and through a forest to a high mountain.



At last they saw a grove of cedars with eagles perching in their branches. "We are not far from the top of the mountain now," said the angel. They walked through a meadow full of lambs and arrived where the people from the Golden Age lived. There were thousands of tents in every direction.

"We are now in the camp of the army of the Lord," said the Angel. "While they were in the world they lived in tents, so they live in tents here. We will go south where we can talk to the wiser angels."

Going on they saw three boys and three boys sitting by a tent. As they came closer they saw that the boys and girls were young men and women. The angel guide explained that all who lived on the mountain looked like children because they were so innocent.



The three men ran to meet them. One man invited them into a tent. He was dressed in a robe of blue over a tunic of white wool. His wife wore a purple gown over a linen garment. Swedenborg looked at the couple. He saw the same loveliness of soul in both their faces, so he said, "You are one."

"Yes, we are one," the husband replied, "For her life is in me, and mine in her. We are two bodies, but one soul. That is why we look alike." Soon Swedenborg noticed a bright light coming from the middle of the camp. The angel told him that it came from the tabernacle of worship. He was allowed to go and look at it. It was just like the tabernacle of the children of Israel. The angel explained that the light came from a tablet that said, "The Covenant between the Lord and heaven." When they were ready to go the angel gave Swedenborg a pomegranate full of golden seeds as a sign he had visited people who lived in the Golden Age.



DISCUSSION

- Do you remember what the homes of the most ancient people were like in heaven? (*Beautiful tents.*)
- Why were the people and their clothes so beautiful? (*Because the angels loved the Lord above everything. In heaven, everyone is beautiful just as they love the Lord and their neighbor.*)
- The homes in our story today were very beautiful. What kind of a house do you think you will have in heaven? Just imagine how beautiful it will be. Do you think it will look like the homes in our story about the heaven of the Golden Age? (*Answers will vary.*)
- What gift did the angels give to Swedenborg? (*A pomegranate with seeds of gold.*) Have you ever seen a pomegranate? A pomegranate is a beautiful fruit that has been grown since ancient times. It is still grown at this day in many parts of the world.
- In our next lesson we will learn more about Emanuel Swedenborg and how it happened that the Lord allowed him to visit angels in heaven.



THE HEAVEN OF THE GOLDEN AGE | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

One thing I have desired of the Lord,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 27:4



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- For the Beauty of the Earth
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-for-the-beauty-of-the-earth/>

Projects

- The Golden Age Project
- Picture to color

Additional Activity

- Draw a picture of a house where you might want to live in heaven.

The Golden Age

This project pictures the way the first people on earth, the people of the Golden Age, live in heaven.

Supplies needed

- 1 large rectangular piece of blue paper (sky)
- 1 large rectangular piece of green paper the same size as the blue paper (ground)
- 1 piece of shiny paper or fabric (tent)
- 2 wooden craft (popsicle) sticks
- 2 pieces white paper approx. 4"x6" (10cm x 15cm) to make people
- 3 pieces white paper approx. 2"x3" (5cm x 9cm) (to make lambs)
- 3 cotton balls (cotton wool)
- crayons or oil pastel crayons
- scissors
- glue

Directions

1. With the long side of the green paper towards you, draw some curved shapes to suggest mountains near the top of the paper. Cut along this line and then glue the green paper on top of the blue paper to create a landscape for a scene in heaven.
2. Draw a tent shape like the one in the picture below on the shiny paper or fabric. Cut it out. Place it near the middle of the scene and glue it down. Glue the two craft sticks over the tent to suggest tent poles.
3. Use the two 4"x6" (10cm X 15cm) pieces of white paper to draw a man and a woman. Use the whole piece by drawing the head near the top and the feet near the bottom of the paper. Cut out the people. Glue them to the scene.
4. Use the three 2"x3" (5cm x 9cm) white pieces of paper to make some little lambs. Draw a head, body and legs, using the full width of the paper. Cut them out and then glue a cotton ball to each one to make them fluffy and soft like lambs. Glue the lambs near the people and the tent in the scene.





Recitation Award | Lessons 21, 22, 23, 24

