

Quotes from the Word: The Lord on the White Horse

OLD TESTAMENT

Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O mighty One,
With Your glory and Your majesty.
And in Your honor mount,
And ride upon the Word of truth
And the meekness of righteousness....
Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the Scepter of Your kingdom.
(Psalm 45:3-4, 6).

Sing to God, sing psalms to His name;
Extol Him who rides on the clouds....
Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
Oh sing praises to the Lord, Selah.
To Him who rides on the heaven of heavens,
Which were of old!
(Psalm 68:4, 32-33)

How great are His signs,
And how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And His dominion is from generation to generation.
(Daniel 4:3)

NEW TESTAMENT

I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this" (Revelation 4:1).

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of might thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him the glory.... Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword.... And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:6-7,11-16).

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HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

SIGNS IN HEAVEN

“A great sign was seen in heaven” means a revelation by the Lord concerning His New Church in the heavens and on earth (*Apocalypse Revealed* 532).

“Behold a door opened in heaven” symbolizes the arcana of heaven revealed...The sight is admitted into heaven where the sight of the bodily eyes is dimmed, and at the same time the sight of the spirit's eyes is enlightened. By this sight all things seen by the prophets were seen... Whatever is said by the Lord and is perceived by angels, in coming down is changed into representatives, and is so made to appear before the eyes of angels in the ultimate heavens and before prophetic men when the eyes of their spirit have been opened (see *Apocalypse Explained* 260:1,2).

THE LORD ON A WHITE HORSE

As “horse” means the intellect, particularly in relation to the Word, it can be seen that the understanding of truth from the Word, and its quality with the people of the church, are here described by “horses.” In Revelation: “I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called the Word of God. And the armies that are in heaven followed Him upon white horses” (Rev. 19:11-16). “A white horse” evidently means the understanding of the Word, likewise “the white horses” upon which those sat who followed; for “He that sat upon” the white horse was the Lord in relation to the Word... The Lord is called the Word, because the Word means Divine truth proceeding from Him (*Apocalypse Explained* 355:1,14).

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse” means the spiritual sense of the Word revealed by the Lord, and the interior understanding of the Word disclosed thereby; which is the coming of the Lord. By “heaven was seen open” is meant a revelation from the Lord.... By “a horse” is meant the understanding of the Word, and by “a white horse” the interior understanding of the Word... The reason that this is the coming of the Lord, is because it manifestly appears by that sense that the Lord is the Word, and that the Word treats of Him alone, and that He is the God of heaven and earth, and that from Him alone the New Church exists.

The Lord appears manifestly in the spiritual sense of the Word. It appears not only that He is the Word, that is, the Divine truth itself, and that He is the inmost of the Word, and thence the all of it; but also that He Himself is the one God, in whom is the Trinity, and thus the only God of heaven and earth; and moreover that He came into the world, that He might glorify His Human, that is, make it Divine (*Apocalypse Revealed* 820).

[The Lord riding on a white horse as described in Revelation 19:11-18] is a description of the Lord as the Word. His eyes like a flame of fire mean the Divine wisdom of His Divine love. The

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diadems on His head and the name which no one but He knows mean the Divine truths in the Word which come from Him, and that no one sees what the Word is like in its spiritual sense except the Lord and those to whom He reveals it. A garment dyed in blood means the natural sense of the Word, that is, the literal sense, to which violence was done (*True Christian Religion* 196:2).

And by “the sword out of His mouth,” is meant the Divine truth of the Word fighting against falsities and evils.... To fight against falsities and evils is also to fight against the hells... (*Apocalypse Revealed* 299).

THE SYMBOLISM OF HORSES

When angels' discussion has to do with the understanding part of the mind, horses appear in the world of spirits below them, that is, in the communities which correspond to them. The size, shape, color, and stance of the horses depends on the ideas which the angels have concerning the understanding (*Arcana Coelestia* 3217).

That a horse symbolizes the understanding, is from no other source than from the representatives in the spiritual world. In that world horses are frequently seen, and persons sitting upon horses, and also chariots; and there everyone knows that they symbolize intellectual and doctrinal things (*White Horse* 3).

THE LORD'S SECOND COMING

The whole of Revelation from beginning to end describes the present state of the Christian church, and prophesies the Lord's second coming, His conquest of the hells, the creation of a new heaven of angels and then the establishment of a new church on earth. All these things were there foretold, but they have not been revealed before the present time. The reason is that Revelation, like all the prophetic parts of the Word, was written purely in correspondences, and if these had not been revealed by the Lord, hardly anyone could have correctly understood a single verse (*True Christian Religion* 116:4).

The New Christian Church is not being established through miracles such as the Lord's birth on earth, but through revelation of the spiritual sense of the Word and teachings about life after death, and these surpass all miracles (see *Coronis* preface).

The Lord's second coming, is not in person, but in the Word, which is from Him and which He is (*True Christian Religion* 776).

This, the Lord's second coming, is taking place by means of a man, to whom He has shown Himself in person, and whom He has filled with His spirit, so that he may teach the doctrines of the new church which come from the Lord through the Word. I bear true witness that the Lord has shown Himself in the presence of me, His servant, and sent me to perform this function....

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Equally, I assert that from the first day of my calling I have not received any instruction concerning the doctrines of that church from any angel, but only from the Lord, while I was reading the Word (*True Christian Religion* 779).

“Enter into the mysteries of the Word, which has been heretofore shut up; for the particular truths therein are so many mirrors of the Lord” (*True Christian Religion* 508:6).

THE BIRTH OF THE NEW CHURCH

The New Church “is to worship one visible God in whom is the invisible like the soul in the body” (*True Christian Religion* 787).

After the completion of the book [*True Christian Religion*], the Lord called together His twelve disciples, who had followed Him in the world; and a day later He sent them all forth throughout the spiritual world to preach the Gospel, that the Lord God Jesus Christ is king, and His kingdom shall be for ever and ever.... This happened on the nineteenth of June in the year 1770 (*True Christian Religion* 791).

This New Church, truly Christian, which at this day is being established by the Lord, will endure to eternity.... In this New Church there will be spiritual peace, glory, and internal blessedness of life (*Coronis* preface).

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The term 'Church' is appropriate wherever the Lord is acknowledged and the Word exists (*Arcana Coelestia* 10761).

It is believed that the church is where the Word is, and where the Lord is known; but still the church consists of those only who from the heart acknowledge the Divine of the Lord, and who learn truths from the Lord by the Word and do them; others do not constitute the church (*Apocalypse Explained* 388).

The Church exists only where the Word is rightly understood; and that the nature of the Church is according to the understanding of the Word with those who are in the Church (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 79:1,8).