

SERVANT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Long, long ago, in Stockholm, Sweden, a boy was born. He was the third child in a family of nine children. He was named Emanuel. This name means “God with us.”

Emanuel’s father’s name was Jesper Swedberg. At the time of Emanuel’s birth, Jesper Swedberg was Chaplain or Minister to the King of Sweden. Later he became a Bishop in the Lutheran Church.

Sara Behm was Jesper Swedberg’s wife and the mother of the nine children. Their names were Albrecht, Anna, Emanuel, Hedwig, Daniel, Eliezer, Catherina, Jesper, and Margaretha. But their mother died when Emanuel was only eight years old, and so his father married again to give his children a mother. Their second mother was named Sara Bergia. She was a very good mother.

Emanuel liked to learn things. In time he became a great man. During his long life he wrote many books. And he traveled many times through the countries of Europe. Everywhere he went he asked many questions of the people he met, read many books, and so learned many, many things.

In 1719, when Emanuel Swedberg was thirty-one years old, the Queen of Sweden made all the children of Jesper Swedberg nobles and they changed their family name from Swedberg to Swedenborg. Much later, when he was fifty-seven years old, the Lord appeared to him. That was indeed wonderful. The Lord told him to stop all of the work he was doing and to serve Him. Swedenborg did this at once. And he served the Lord for twenty-seven years. During all those years the Lord opened Swedenborg’s spiritual eyes and let him live in the spiritual world just as he lived in this world. He talked with angels, with good and bad spirits, even with devils and satans. He visited the heavens and the hells. He even visited the angels and spirits from many other earths, talked with them, and learned from them about the earths they had come from.

Swedenborg also read and studied the Word of the Old and New Testaments. He read the Old Testament in Hebrew and in Latin; the New Testament in both Greek and Latin. He read them many times and learned to love them and in this way he learned to love the Lord. And he thought about the many meanings of the stories in the Old and New Testaments. While he was reading the Word and thinking about it, the Lord would open it up and show him the hidden spiritual meanings. And while he was visiting in the spiritual world, the Lord would teach him the Heavenly Doctrines. Then he wrote for the Lord the books that we call “The Writings.”

In these ways the Lord prepared Emanuel Swedenborg to write many books that are the Lord's Word of His Second Coming. By this new Word, called "The Writings," the Lord began His New Church on this earth. And the Lord said that this New Church would be the crown of all the Churches that have ever been on our earth, and that ever will be on it. And the Lord gave Swedenborg the title: "Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is why we celebrate every year the birthday of Emanuel Swedenborg. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on January 29th, 1688. He died in London, England, on March 29th, 1772. But Swedenborg, now an angel, lives on in the heavens, and in the hearts of all who worship the Lord Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father.