

Quotes from the Word: The Lord Our God

OLD TESTAMENT

And God spoke all these words saying:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them (Exodus 20:1-5).

“All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient” (Exodus 24:7).

“I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people”(Leviticus 26:12).

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your might.
(Deuteronomy 6:4,5)

“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge,
His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.”
(Deuteronomy 11:1)

“All the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.
Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God,
to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.”
(1 Kings 8:60-61)

Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
(Psalm 100)

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth (Psalm 145:8).

Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you;
so shall you be My people, and I will be your God.
(Jeremiah 11:4)

Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God (Joshua 23:11).

“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”

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(Isaiah 37:16)

NEW TESTAMENT

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

There is one God, and there is no other but He (Mark 12:32).

"To love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices" (Mark 12:33).

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another (John 13:34).

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me" (John 14:15, 21).

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:27-28).

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned" (Revelation 11:17).

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city (Revelation 22:14).

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HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

THE LORD OUR GOD

God is one in Person and Essence, and this God is the Lord (*Doctrine of the Lord* 65).

The Lord is present with every person, urging and pressing to be received.... [A person receives Him] when he acknowledges Him as his God, Creator, Redeemer and Savior (*True Christian Religion* 766).

The one God, who is invisible, came into the world, and took on a human form, not only so that He might redeem humankind, but also so that He might become visible, and thereby conjunction with people might become possible... (*True Christian Religion* 786:2).

Throughout heaven they do not know any other Father than the Lord, for They are one, as He Himself has said, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father.... Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me" (John 14: 9,11) (*Arcana Coelestia* 15).

The name "The Lord" is used exclusively to mean the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, and He is called the Lord without the addition of the rest of His names. Throughout heaven He is acknowledged and worshipped as Lord, since He has all power in heaven and on earth. This He also commanded when He said, "You call Me Lord, and you are right, for so I am" (John 13:13). Furthermore after the Resurrection the disciples called Him Lord (*Arcana Coelestia* 14).

THE LORD LOVES US

The essence of God consists of love and wisdom. The essence of His love consists of three things: to love others outside of Himself, to desire to be one with them, and to make them happy from Himself. Love desires these three things, and wisdom brings them forth.

The first essential, which is to love others outside of one's self, is recognized in God's love for the whole human race.... The love of God goes forth and extends not only to good people and good things, but also to evil people and evil things; consequently not only to the people and things in heaven but also in hell....

The second essential of the love of God, which is a desire to be one with others, is recognized in His conjunction with the angelic heaven, with the church on earth, with everyone there, and with every thing good and true that enters into and constitutes a person and the church.

The third essential of the love of God, which is to make them happy from Himself, is recognized in eternal life, which is the endless blessedness, happiness, and felicity that God gives to those who receive His love into themselves (see *True Christian Religion* 43:1-4).

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The Divine that goes forth from the Lord and that affects angels and makes heaven is love; for all who are in heaven are forms of love and charity, and appear in ineffable beauty, with love shining forth from their faces, and from their speech and from every particular of their life (*Heaven and Hell* 17).

The Lord loves all and so wishes to do good to all and good is service. Since the Lord does good or performs services indirectly through angels, and in the world through people, He gives those who faithfully perform services a love of service and its reward, which is inward blessedness, and this is everlasting happiness (*True Christian Religion* 736:3).

OUR IDEA OF GOD

The idea of God is the primary of all ideas. For such as this idea is, such is a person's communication with heaven and his conjunction with the Lord, and such is his enlightenment, his affection of truth and good, his perception, intelligence, and wisdom. For these are from the Lord according to conjunction with Him (see *Apocalypse Explained* 957:3).

There are many attributes of the Divine essence, such as omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, mercy, grace, eternity, and others; and there are attributes proceeding from the Divine essence, which are creation and preservation, salvation and redemption, enlightenment and instruction. Everyone who thinks of God only from person, makes three Gods, saying that one God is the Creator and Preserver, another the Savior and Redeemer, and the third the Enlightener and Instructor. But everyone who thinks of God from essence, makes one God, saying, God created and preserves us, redeems and saves us, enlightens and instructs us.... Think of God from His essence, and from that of His Person, and not from His Person, and from this of His essence (*Apocalypse Revealed* 611:7-8).

It is to be believed that the Lord is the God of heaven and earth, and that He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite, and one with the Father.... And yet that faith does not save until a person lives the life of faith, which is charity. For he then wills and does what he believes, and to will and to do is of the love, and love conjoins to Him whom faith presents as present (*Apocalypse Explained* 815:7).

The New Church is...to worship one visible God in whom is the invisible like the soul in the body.... Conjunction with an invisible God is like a conjunction of the eye's vision with the expanse of the universe, the limits of which are invisible. It is also like vision in mid-ocean, which reaches out into the air and upon the sea, and is lost. Conjunction with a visible God, on the other hand, is like beholding a man in the air or on the sea spreading forth his hands and inviting to his arms. For all conjunction of God with a person must be also a reciprocal conjunction of a person with God; and no such reciprocation is possible except with a visible God (*True Christian Religion* 787).

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COMMANDMENTS LEADING TO A SPIRITUAL LIFE

“I am Jehovah your God” means the Lord in respect of the Divine Human reigning universally, in every single aspect of goodness and truth.... It is also well known that He is also the one who has redeemed the human race and delivered them from hell...The reason why this is the first truth to be stated by the Lord from Mount Sinai is that it must be present, reigning universally in each and every truth that follows. For what is stated first must be held in mind and must be seen to reside universally in everything that follows (*Arcana Coelestia* 8864:1-3).

The Ten Commandments contain everything to do with love for God and everything to do with love towards the neighbor.... In general, they prescribe that evil is not to be willed, thought or done, either against God or against the neighbor. The reason why we are not commanded to do what is directly the work of love and charity, but only to avoid doing their opposites, is that in so far as a person shuns evils as sins, so far does he will the good actions of love and charity (*True Christian Religion* 329).

He is deceived who supposes that he acknowledges and believes that there is a God before he abstains from the evils forbidden in the Decalogue.... [H]e does not believe unless the evils have been removed that spring from the love of self and of the world. The reason is that evils and their delights block up the way, and shut out and repel goods and their delights from heaven, and prevent their confirmation (*Apocalypse Explained* 952:2).

One might wonder why these laws, known as they are the world over, were promulgated from Mount Sinai by Jehovah Himself with so great a miracle. But listen: they were promulgated with so great a miracle in order that people may know that these laws are not only civic and moral laws, but are also spiritual laws; and that to act contrary to them is not only to do evil to a fellow-citizen and to the community, but is also to sin against God (*Doctrine of Life* 53).

LOVING THE LORD

The prime thing of love to God and the neighbor is not to do evil, and the second to do good (*True Christian Religion* 329).

Anyone who supposes that he can love the Lord without leading a life in keeping with His commandments is very much mistaken; for leading a life in keeping with them is what constitutes loving the Lord. Those commandments are truths received from the Lord, and so are such as have the Lord within them. To the extent therefore that those commandments are loved, that is, to the extent that a person is inspired by love to lead a life in keeping with them, the Lord is loved.... But loving the Lord without leading a life in keeping with His commandments does not constitute loving Him, for then the person has nothing within him into which the Lord can flow and raise him to Himself. He is like an empty vessel, in that there is no life at all in his faith, nor any life at all in his love (*Arcana Coelestia* 10578:3).

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In heaven loving the Lord does not mean loving Him in respect to His person, but it means loving the good that is from Him; and to love good is to will and do good from love (*Heaven and Hell* 15).

The Lord's presence is unceasing with every person, both the evil and the good, for without His presence no one lives. But His coming is only to those who receive Him, who are those who believe in Him and keep His commandments. The Lord's unceasing presence causes people to become rational, and gives them 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, and that people receive in their understanding. That light is the truth, and by means of it people have rationality. But the Lord's coming is to those who join 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 (*True Christian Religion* 774).

People who love ruling from the delight of ruling and not from love of uses are evil. When seen in the light of heaven, they appear to be inverted. The head is down and the feet up since they give rule the first place and uses the second.... "That which is the head is loved, but that which is the feet is trampled upon" (*Apocalypse Explained* 951:9).

No one is in heaven or comes to it unless he acknowledges the Lord and loves Him. To love the Lord is not to love Him in respect to person but to live according to His commandments.... To love means also to be conjoined, for love is spiritual conjunction, and conjunction is effected by the reception of Divine truth in doctrine and in life (*Apocalypse Explained* 433).

LOOKING TO THE LORD AS OUR GOD

"You shall have no other gods" includes not loving self and the world above all things. For that which one loves above all things is his god. There are two directly opposite loves, love of self and love to God, also love of the world and love of heaven. (*Apocalypse Explained* 950:3).

A person's whole character is determined by the nature of whatever dominates his life.... His heaven is formed in accordance with it if he is good, or his hell if he is bad (*Arcana Coelestia* 8858).

So far as these two loves [love of ruling and love of possessing goods] regard uses in the *first* place and self in the second they are good, while so far as they regard self in the *first* place and uses in the second they are evil, since a person then does all things for the sake of self and consequently from self (*Apocalypse Explained* 951:8,9).

What reigns universally with a person is that which is present in every idea of his thought and every desire of his will.... That which reigns universally within a person should be the Lord.... The Lord starts to reign in a person when he not only believes that everything good and everything true comes from Him but also loves it to be so (*Arcana Coelestia* 8865).