

Quotes from the Word: The Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT

“The Lord gave the Word” (Psalm 68:11).

“Man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

“All that the Lord has spoken we will do” (Exodus 19:8).

Show me Your ways, O Lord;
Teach me Your paths.
Lead me in the Your truth and teach me,
For You are the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.
(Psalm 25:4-5).

The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27:1).

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

“Your word has given me life” (Psalm 119:50).

I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure (Psalm 119:162).

“The mouth of the Lord has spoken it” (Isaiah 40:5).

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).

“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1).

“When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me” (Micah 7:8).

NEW TESTAMENT

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory (John 1:1-4,14).

“Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst” (John 4:13,14).

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

And He [Jesus] preached the Word to them (Mark 2:2).

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“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word” (John 14:23).

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’” (Luke 4:4).

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28).

“The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to the living fountains of waters” (Revelation 7:17).

His name is called the Word of God (Revelation 19:13).

HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

THE LORD TEACHES US

When the Word is read, the Lord comes in and teaches (*Arcana Coelestia* 6516:3).

When “a person possessing a heavenly love reads it, the Word links him to heaven and through heaven to the Lord, as a result of which, he receives enlightenment and instruction” (*Arcana Coelestia* 9382:3).

The Lord instructs everyone by means of the Word, and He instructs a person to the degree that the person receives goodness from the Lord in his will, which in turn depends on the degree to which he abstains from evils because they are sins (*De Verbo* 13:2).

Asking the Lord a question is done by consulting the Word. For the Word has the Lord present within it. He is present there because the Word consists of Divine Truth that comes from Him (*Arcana Coelestia* 10548:2).

To be taught from the Word is to be taught by the Lord Himself, because it is to be taught from Good itself and from Truth itself, or from Love itself and from Wisdom itself, which are the Word. But everyone is taught according to the understanding appropriate to his own love.... All those who are taught by the Lord in the Word are instructed in a few truths while in the world, but in many when they become angels. For the interiors of the Word, which are Divine spiritual and Divine celestial things, are implanted...but are not opened in a person until after his death, when he is in heaven (*Divine Providence* 172:5).

The world cannot enter into heaven, but heaven can enter into the world, which comes to pass when the Lord inflows through heaven with man, and enlightens him, teaches him, and leads him, by means of the Word (*Arcana Coelestia* 10236:4).

Quotes from the Word: The Word of God

Those who study the Word out of an affection for truth—or who in reading the Word find delight in the truth because it is true—have the love of God and love of the neighbor as their goal, and their focus is on life rather than on themselves. Because they love what is true, they receive an influx from the Lord, and they see and discover genuine truths in the Word. For they are enlightened intellectually, and in their enlightenment they perceive these things as if of themselves, even though it is not of themselves. After death they are raised into heaven, where truth exists in its own light; and they become spiritual, and are angels (*De Verbo* 9:2).

No one who is ignorant of the nature of the Word can have the slightest idea that infinity is contained in its details, that is to say, that its contents are countless, so that not even the angels can exhaust them. Anything found there can be compared to a seed, which planted in the ground can grow into a great tree, and produce an abundance of seeds. These again produce similar trees to form a garden, and their seeds in turn form other gardens, and so on to infinity (*True Christian Religion* 290).

LEARNING ABOUT THE LORD

The Word is from the Lord, about the Lord, and is the Lord (*Apocalypse Revealed* 200).

“Each and all things of the Word have been written concerning Him alone” (*Doctrine of the Lord* 2).

The Lord is the Word because He is the Divine truth; also because the Word is from Him, and treats of Him. And because it treats of the Lord alone in its inmost sense, the Lord Himself is therein (see *White Horse* 14).

It is through the Word that the Lord is present with a person and conjoined with him, for the Lord is the Word, and as it were speaks with the person in it (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 78).

Since every expression in the Word comes from the Lord and so has the Divine within it, it is clear that not one expression, not even one iota, is there which does not mean and embody something (*Arcana Coelestia* 771).

The Word has always existed, but not the Word we have now.... The reason why the Word has existed in every age is that by means of the Word there is a communication between heaven and earth, and also that the Word deals with goodness and truth, by which a person is enabled to live in eternal happiness (*Arcana Coelestia* 2895).

Each truth from the Word “is a mirror in which we see the Lord” (*True Christian Religion* 508:6).

The life that flows in from the Lord through the Word is the light of truth into our minds and the love of good into our will (see *De Verbo* 2).

Those who receive enlightenment when they read the Word see the Lord (*Arcana Coelestia* 9411).

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Knowledges from the Word are such that they are open from the Lord Himself; for the Word itself is from the Lord through heaven, and the Lord's life is in all things of the Word (*Arcana Coelestia* 1461).

READING THE WORD

Where the Word is read with reverence and the Lord is worshipped from the Word, the Lord is present together with heaven. This is because the Lord is the Word, and the Word is Divine Truth which constitutes heaven (*Divine Providence* 2:2).

He leads those who love truths, and who will them from Himself. Such are enlightened when they read the Word; for the Lord is in the Word and speaks with everyone according to his understanding (*Apocalypse Explained* 1183).

No one...feels and perceives the Divine life in the Word but he who is in the spiritual affection of truth when he reads it, for he is in conjunction with the Lord through the Word (*Apocalypse Revealed* 200).

When the Word of the Lord is being read by someone who loves the Word and leads a charitable life...the Lord also sets the Word before the angels. The Lord does so in such beauty and such loveliness, using representatives as well, with indescribable variations, each of which accords with the angels' entire state at the time, that every detail is perceived as if it had life. This life is that which is present within the Word and from which the Word was given birth when it was sent down from heaven. By reason of this, although in the letter it appears rough and imperfect, the Word of the Lord is such that inwardly there are concealed spiritual and celestial things, which are fully visible to good spirits and to angels while it is being read by a person (*Arcana Coelestia* 1767:15)

When young children read the Word, the angels are able to understand the internal sense more fully than they can when adults read the Word, because children are in a state of mutual love and innocence (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1776).

THE INTERNAL SENSE OF THE WORD

The Word in its internal sense contains innumerable things which transcend the human comprehension (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 260).

The internal sense of the Word contains arcana of heaven, which relate to the Lord and His kingdom in the heavens and on earth. These arcana do not appear in the sense of the letter (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 260).

In its original language not a single word, nor even a single jot, can be taken away from the sense of the letter of the Word without an interruption to the internal sense (*White Horse* 11).

The Word is the doctrine of love to the Lord, and of charity towards the neighbor (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 260).

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The Word in the letter is as the cloud, and in the internal sense it is the glory. A cloud in the Word also signifies the Word in the sense of the letter, and glory the Word in the internal sense (see *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 260).

The only subject in the internal sense of the Word is the Lord, and His kingdom and Church. This is what accounts for the holiness of the Word, and also for the Lord's coming to and presence with those who, as they read the Word, have in mind the Lord and the neighbor—the neighbor being the good of fellow citizen, country, the Church, and heaven (*Arcana Coelestia* 10405:2).

THE WORD IN HEAVEN

The Word has been written not only for the sake of man but also for that of angels (*Arcana Coelestia* 1025:2).

The existence of writings in the heavens is a provision by the Lord for the sake of the Word, the Word in its essence being Divine Truth, from which is all heavenly wisdom, both for people and for angels. For the Word is dictated by the Lord, and what is dictated by the Lord passes through all the heavens in order and terminates with people. Thereby it is adapted both to the wisdom in which angels are and to the intelligence in which people. Thereby, too, the angels have a Word, and read it just as people do on earth. From it they draw their doctrine, and from it preaching takes place. It is the same Word; but its natural sense, which is the sense of the letter with us, does not exist in heaven, but the spiritual sense, which is its internal sense (*Heaven and Hell* 259).

The fact that such an infinity of spiritual seeds or truths lies in the Word, can be established from the wisdom of the angels...which is derived from the Word. In their case wisdom goes on growing for ever. The wiser they become, the more clearly do they see that wisdom has no end; and they perceive that they are merely at its entrance, and they cannot reach even the minutest part of the Lord's Divine wisdom. They call this bottomless. Now since this is the source of the Word, coming as it does from the Lord, it is plain that all its details contain a sort of infinity (*True Christian Religion* 290).