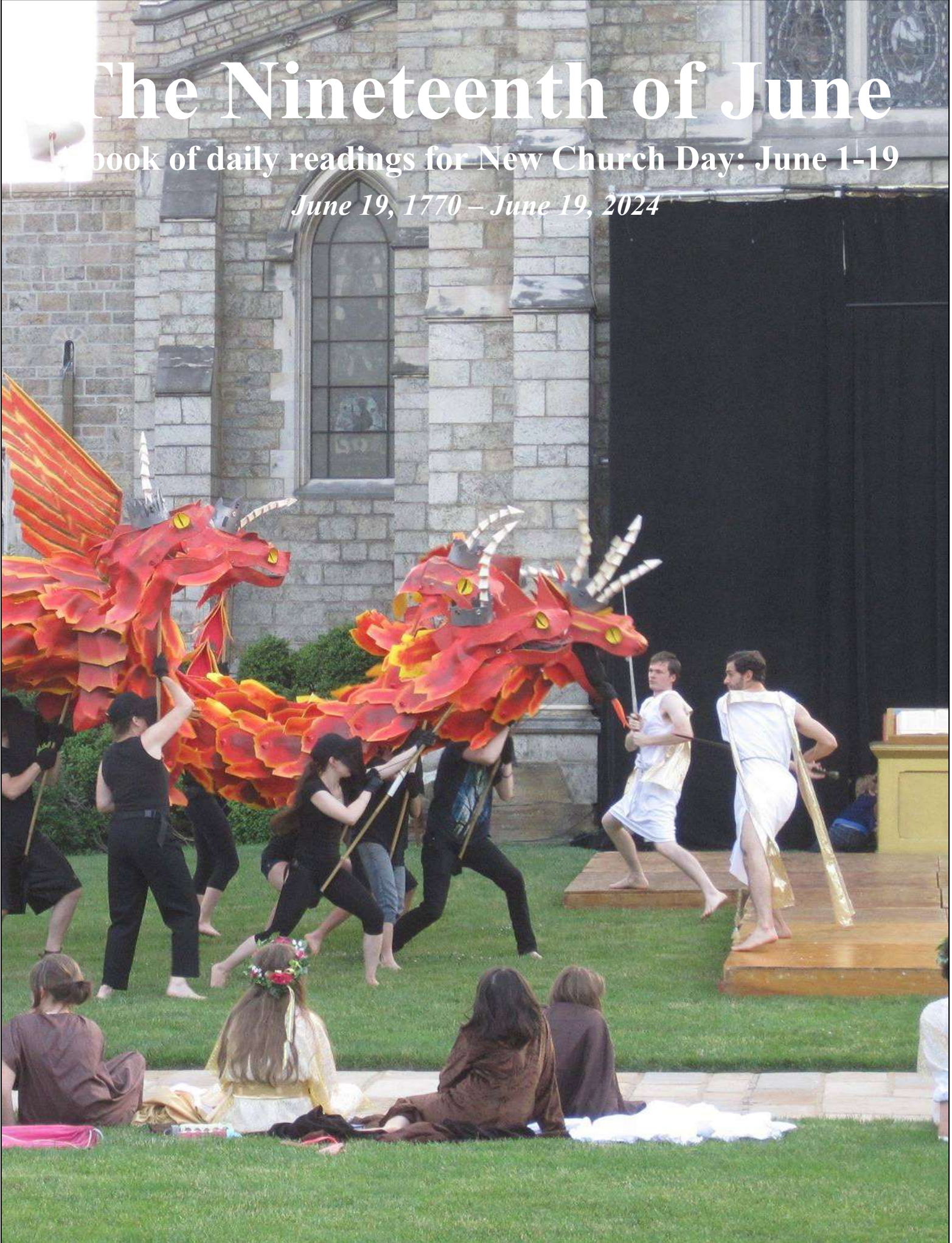


The Nineteenth of June

Book of daily readings for New Church Day: June 1-19

June 19, 1770 – June 19, 2024



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Introduction

We celebrate the 19th day of June as New Church Day because of what is written at the end of *True Christianity*, the last of the books of the Theological Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

Postscript: After this work was finished, the Lord called together the twelve disciples who followed Him in the world. The next day He sent all of them out to the entire spiritual world to preach the gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns and that His kingdom will last for ages of ages, as foretold by Daniel (*Daniel 7:13, 14*) and by the Book of Revelation (*Revelation 11:15*); also that "people who come to the wedding feast of the Lamb are blessed" (*Revelation 19:9*).

This occurred on June 19, 1770. This is what the Lord was referring to when He said, "He will send out His angels, and they will gather His chosen people from one end of the heavens to the other" (*Matthew 24:31*). *True Christianity* 791

These daily readings are about the events leading up to this occasion, the formal beginning of the New Church, which put it in context and give it meaning. They describe an astonishing conflict that occurred, one that was invisible to the human race, but real nonetheless. According to New Church teachings these events define the Lord's Second Coming and the Last Judgment – His unmasking and defeat of evil, and the return of peace to the earth. The events are spoken of especially in the *Book of Revelation*, and their meaning is interpreted in the *Apocalypse Revealed*, the *Apocalypse Explained*, and elsewhere in the Heavenly Doctrine. The series of events portrayed there successively describes the state of the church in the world, the issues it faces, the solutions to these issues, the ensuing struggle, and the beautiful result. This result is a new era of humanity, without racism or strife, which is called the New Church, and which is promised to increasingly characterize and shape life on this planet.

The readings below are organized under seven different headings, with a reading for each day in June up to the 19th. The texts from Revelation, taken from the recent translation by the Rev. N. Bruce Rogers of *Apocalypse Revealed*, are abbreviated for clarity and to save space.

Part 1: An invitation

June 1 – The apostle John is called to send a message to the Christian world.

Some years after the Lord's resurrection, the apostle John "was commanded to betake himself into the isle of Patmos, that the things that are to be at the end of the church might there be revealed" (*Apocalypse Explained* 50). On that island off the coast of Turkey the Lord appeared to him in the midst of seven lampstands. He says that He will show him "things that must shortly take place." John is to write them down and send them to seven churches in Asia. The entire book is addressed to these churches, who stand for everyone in the Christian world who can accept John's message and become part of the New Jerusalem (*Apocalypse Revealed* 41).

Revelation 1

I, John, who am also your brother and your companion in the tribulation and kingdom and

patient awaiting of Jesus Christ, was on the island called Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I became in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. What you see, write in a book and send it to the churches which are in Asia - Ephesus and Smyrna, Pergamum and Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me, and having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and girded about the breasts with a golden girdle. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white, like wool as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as though fired in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ having in His right hand seven stars, and issuing from His mouth a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance as the sun shines in its power. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell

June 2 – The Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira.

The letters are an invitation to the people of Christianity, a brief message of introduction to everything that follows. The seven letters represent a communication to all the different kinds of people within the Christian world, people who can accept John's message. The letters are addressed to the angels of these churches. *Apocalypse Revealed* describes these angels as representing the church in heaven. They are angelic communities who are connected with those on earth who are able to become part of the New Jerusalem, or the New Church, described in the book of Revelation

(*Apocalypse Revealed* 65).

The statement to each angel is a message of encouragement to the people of the church. It praises their strengths, reminds them of what they must overcome to become part of the New Jerusalem, and promises great rewards.

Revelation 2

"To the angel of the church of **Ephesus** write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² I know your works, your labor, and your patience, and that you

cannot bear those who are evil... ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first charity. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen and repent and do the first works... ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'

⁸ "And to the angel of the church of the people of **Smyrna** write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and is alive: ⁹ I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, and the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan... Be faithful

at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "*Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last,* ¹⁸ *and am He who lives, and was put to death, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of hell and death.* ¹⁹ *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.* ²⁰ *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."*

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

Why so many series of seven?

"Seven" means a whole period from start to finish, thus what is complete. *Arcana Coelestia* 9228

"Seven" means all things and all, and thence, also, what is full and perfect, and it occurs in the Word where anything holy is treated of, and in the opposite sense, of anything profane. *Apocalypse Revealed* 10

"Seven days' time" means the Lord's Coming into the world, and also His coming into glory. It especially means every coming He makes. Every one of His comings involves a beginning for those who are being regenerated and the end of those who are being vastated. *Arcana Coelestia* 728

"The seven golden lampstands represent the New Church, because the Lord will be in the midst of it." *Apocalypse Revealed* 43

"His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength" describes the Divine love and the Divine wisdom, which are Himself, and proceed from Himself. The "face of the Lord" means the Divine Himself in His essence, which is love and wisdom." *Apocalypse Revealed* 53



until death, and I will give you the crown of life...He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'

¹² "And to the angel of the church in **Pergamum** write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith....

¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel...¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth... To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the hidden manna. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.'

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in **Thyatira** write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ I know your works, and charity and ministry, and faith, and your patience, and your works, and the last more than the first. ²⁰

Nevertheless I have a few things against you, that you allow the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols...²⁵ Still, hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. ²⁷ He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels, as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star."

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

Ephesus stands for the tendency to learn about religious things, without paying attention to using them to live a good life. If you can overcome this tendency you can eat from the tree of life, which means to receive love and charity from the Lord (*see Apocalypse Revealed 73-90*).

Smyrna stands for trying to live a good life under the guidance of false ideas. If you can overcome this tendency you will "*not be hurt by the second death*", that is, you will not succumb to the evils and falsities from hell, and you will receive the "*crown of life*", which is eternal life, the reward of victory. (*Apocalypse Revealed 91-106*).

Pergamos stands for placing all importance on trying to be good, with no importance given to using Divine truth to guide our thoughts and actions. If you can overcome this tendency, you will receive "*hidden manna*" and a "*white stone*", meaning truths that promote good in your life (*Apocalypse Revealed 107- 123*).

Thyatira stands for our belief that knowing about religion saves us. If you can overcome the tendency to this belief you will receive the "*morning star*", which stands for intelligence and wisdom from the Lord (*see Apocalypse Revealed 124 – 152*).

June 3 – Letters to Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea

Revelation 3

And to the angel of the church in **Sardis** write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, when you are dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain... If, then, you will not watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you. ⁴ You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the book of life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."

And to the angel of the church in **Philadelphia** write, 'These things says He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: ⁸ I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have little strength, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹² He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from My God. Also My new name.

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the workmanship of God: ¹⁵ I know your works,

that you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, it shall come to pass that I vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sit with My Father on His throne.”

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

Sardis means being in dead worship, or in worship without the goodness of charity or the truths of faith. If you can be reformed from this tendency you will be “clothed in white garments”, that is, you will become spiritual (*Apocalypse Revealed 154-171*).

Philadelphia stands for being in truth that springs from goodness. If you can maintain that quality you will be a “pillar in the temple”, that is, you will be sustained by the truth, having it written on your heart (*Apocalypse Revealed 172-197*).

Laodicea describes the state that exists if you sometimes believe and act like the Word is holy, and sometimes believe and act like it is not – thus you are neither hot nor cold. If you can overcome this tendency you are promised a seat with God on His throne, meaning that you will be joined with Him in heaven (*see Apocalypse Revealed 198-223*).

Part 2: A door standing open in heaven

After hearing the opening messages to these churches John sees an open door, a door to heaven. He enters that door and finds

himself in heaven. He sees the Lord on a throne with a scroll in His hand. In the scroll is written the truth about the church’s spiritual state, but no one can open the scroll except the Lamb, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

June 4 – The throne room of heaven

Revelation 4

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice that 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.”



² Immediately I was in the spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in

back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a human being, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each individually having six wings about it, were full of eyes within. And they

did not rest day or night.

Revelation 5

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book, or to look in it. ⁴ So I wept much, that no one was found worthy to open and read the book, or to look in it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing as though slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The One on the Throne is the same Man that John saw among the lampstands. He is the Lord as the Creator and Judge, who knows the hearts of all people (AR 256). The scroll in His hand is the knowledge of the state of the world and of each person, unknown to people on earth (AR 257). The Lamb is the Lord as He came into the world, who is the only one who can reveal the true state of the world (AR 269). As the seals are opened the truth is made known.

June 5 – The first four seals opened

Revelation 6

Now I saw when the Lamb opened the **first of the seals**; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying, as though with a voice of thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked,

and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

³ When He opened **the second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴ And another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, so that people might kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

⁵ When He opened **the third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a scale in his hand. ⁶ And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

⁷ When He opened **the fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hell

followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with famine, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

As the seals are opened the truth is made known. *The first seal* reveals that there are people, meant by the white horse, who genuinely understand the truth and love it (AR 299). *The second seal*, the red horse, are people who do not understand the truth because of evil (AR 306). *The third seal*, the black horse, are people who do not understand the truth because of falsity, caring nothing for its value (AR 315). *The fourth seal*, the pale horse, signifies the understanding of the Word destroyed both as to good and as to truth (AR 320). "By "death" is here



meant spiritual death. Everyone has spiritual life from creation, but that life is extinguished when he denies God, the holiness of the Word, and eternal life” (AR 321).

June 6 – Three more seals opened

Revelation 6

When He opened **the fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, who are holy and true, will You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then white robes were given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until the number of both their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was complete.

¹² Then I looked when He opened **the sixth seal**, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became as black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky departed like a book rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth and the great men, the rich

men and the commanders, and the powerful, and every slave and every freeman, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Revelation 8

When He opened **the seventh seal**, there was

silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stood before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The fifth seal, the souls under the altar, are people who are hated because of their goodness, and seek shelter from God (AR 325). “*These are those who were hated, reproached and rejected by the evil on account of their life according to the truths of the Word, and their acknowledgment of the Lord’s Divine Human. They were guarded lest they be seduced. The white robes that they are given are the truths by which they communicate with*

heaven” (AR 325). *The sixth seal*, the kings of the earth, are people who have succeeded in hypocrisy, but who are afraid because they know that they will soon be discovered (AR 331). When *the seventh seal* is opened the silence “*symbolically means that angels from the Lord’s spiritual kingdom were quite dumbfounded when they saw people who claimed to have faith to be in the state they were*” (AR 389).



Part 3: The results of Christianity’s

failure to obey the Word.

Now that the sad state of the church has been exposed, there is a further revelation about the evil that has resulted from this situation. The seven trumpets depict the actual damage resulting from the fact that the peoples of the Christian world have failed to live according to Christ’s teachings (AR 398). Each trumpet symbolically describes some aspect of this harm.

June 7 – The first four trumpets

Revelation 8

When He opened **the seventh seal**, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels who stood before God, and to them were given **seven trumpets**. ⁶ And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

⁷ **The first angel sounded:** And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were cast down to the earth, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

⁸ Then **the second angel sounded:** And something like a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ Then **the third angel sounded:** And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it was made bitter.

¹² Then **the fourth angel sounded:** And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, and a third of them was darkened, so that a third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. ¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "*Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!*"

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The seven trumpets depict the great harm that has been done because the Christian world has failed to live according to Christ's teachings (*AR 398*). Each trumpet describes some aspect of this harm.

The first trumpet reveals hail and fire, meaning that this failure allows evil loves to destroy the love of truth (*AR 402*). *The second trumpet*, the burning mountain, means that this failure allows evils to become like a mountain (*AR 403*). *The third trumpet*, the falling star, means that this failure causes pride to destroy intelligence (*AR 407*). *The fourth trumpet*, the sun, moon and stars darkened, means that love, faith and knowledge are darkened (*AR 412*).

June 8 – Three more trumpets

Revelation 9

Then **the fifth angel sounded**, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth, and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth

have power. ⁷ The locusts in appearance were like horses prepared for battle, and on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ And they had breastplates like

breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of many horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails, and their power was to hurt men five months.

¹³ Then **the sixth angel sounded**, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "*Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.*" ¹⁵ And the four angels were released, who had been



prepared for the hour and day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million, and I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision and those who sat on them, having breastplates that were fiery, hyacinthine and sulfurous; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. ¹⁸ By these three a third of mankind was killed - by the fire and smoke and brimstone coming out of their mouths.

²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed in these plagues, still did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their enchantments or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 11

Then **the seventh angel sounded**, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: "*We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, who are and who were and who are to come, because You have taken Your great power and entered Your kingdom.*"

¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The fifth trumpet, the bottomless pit opened, means that Divine truth reveals the harm done by faith that is not kept in life (*AR 419*). *The sixth*

trumpet, the four angels released, depicts how destructive people are who claim to have faith, and yet live as they please (*AR 442*). *The seventh trumpet*, the kingdom of our Lord proclaimed, means that now that this truth has been shown the Lord's kingdom can be established and a New Church begun (*AR 529*).

Part 4: The Lord's Second Coming

It may seem surprising that the final trumpet is the proclamation of the kingdom of our Lord. Apparently, once the evils described by the seven seals and the seven trumpets are exposed, the way is prepared for the solution to those evils. The story of the Woman Clothed with the Sun describes the answers to them, and it also further describes the evils that resist those answers.

June 9 – The Woman Clothed with the Sun

Revelation 12

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven jewels on its heads. ⁴ Its tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to



devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who would shepherd all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they may feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

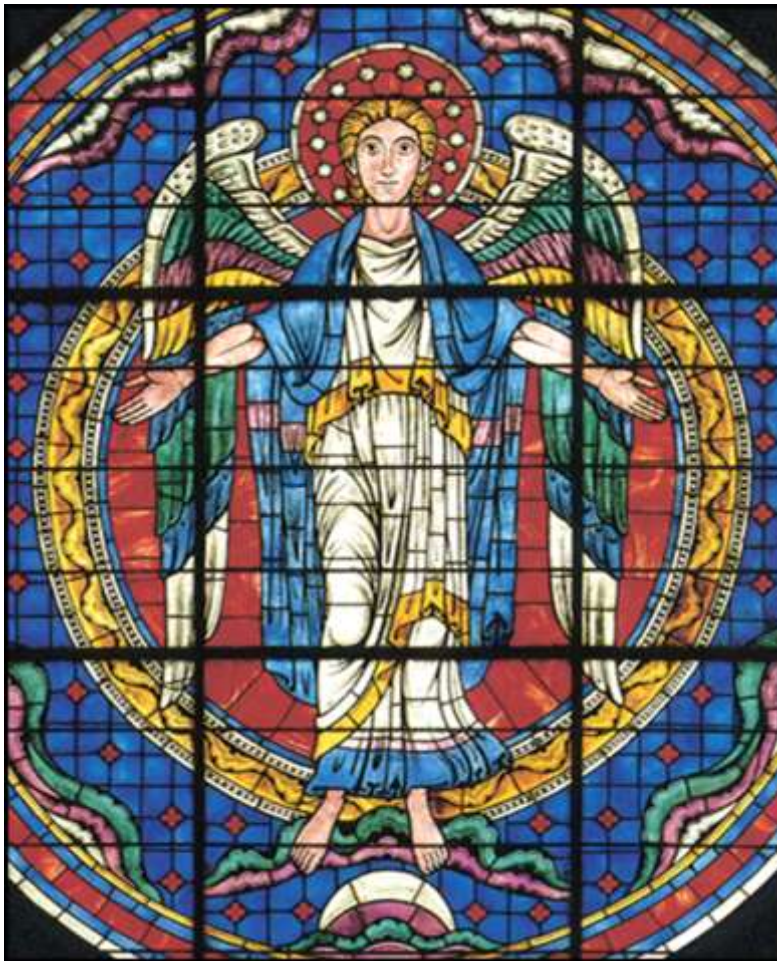
⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and its angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, which leads the whole world astray; it was cast to the earth, and its angels were cast out with it.

¹³ Now when the dragon saw that it had been cast to the earth, it pursued the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she might be nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the face of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of its mouth like a river after the woman, that it might cause her to be swept away by the river. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and it went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The story of the Woman Clothed with the Sun describes the solution to the crisis revealed by the seven seals and the seven trumpets. It also describes the evils that oppose that solution.

The Woman is a New Church whose coming is made possible now that falsity and hypocrisy have been exposed. Her Child is the Doctrine of this New Church, which is from the Lord (AR 535). The dragon is faith separated from life (AR 537). Michael is those who believe that the Lord is the



one God of heaven and earth and that people must live by the Ten Commandments (AR 548).

“*She bore a male Child.* This symbolizes the doctrine of the New Church. A son in the Word symbolizes doctrinal truth, and also an understanding of and consequent thought about truth and goodness. A daughter, on the other hand, symbolizes the goodness taught by doctrine, and also a willing of and consequent affection for truth and goodness.... The doctrine meant here is *The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine* (London, 1758), and also *The Doctrine of the New Jerusalem Regarding the Lord, The Doctrine of the New Jerusalem Regarding the Sacred Scripture, and The Doctrine of Life for the New*

Jerusalem in Accordance With the Ten Commandments (Amsterdam, 1763). For doctrine means all the truths of doctrine, since doctrine embraces them all. When I was writing these doctrines, followers of the dragon stood about me and with all their fury endeavored to devour them, that is, to extinguish them. I am permitted to report this new information, because of a truth it happened as I have said. The followers of the dragon who stood about me came from all over the Protestant Reformed Christian world.”

(*Apocalypse Revealed* 543)

“The Child is a rational doctrine that will convince all who are

willing to be convinced.” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 544)

“*The dragon*’ means in general those who are more or less natural, and yet are in a knowledge of spiritual things from the Word, because “*serpents*” stand for the sensual things in a person, and so for sensual people. Therefore “*the dragon*,” which is a flying serpent, signifies the sensual person who yet flies towards heaven

in that he talks and thinks from the Word or from doctrine from the Word.” (*Apocalypse Explained* 714.5)

“Where she has a place prepared by God, that they may feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. This symbolizes the state of that church then, that in the meantime provision may be made for it to exist among more people, until it grows to its appointed state.

It is of the Lord's Divine providence that the church be at first among few and that it gradually grow to be among more, because the falsities of the previous church must first be removed. For truths cannot be accepted before then, inasmuch as truths accepted and implanted before falsities have been removed do not remain, and they are also expelled by followers of the dragon. The case is the same as with the Christian Church and its gradual growth from few to many.

A second reason is that the New Heaven that must function together with the church on earth has to first be formed. Consequently we read that John

saw a new heaven, and the holy Jerusalem descending from God out of heaven. One thing is certain, that the New Church, which is the New

Jerusalem, will come into being, because it is foretold in the book of Revelation, chapters 21 and 22. And it is also certain that the falsities of the previous church have been removed before then, because that is the subject dealt with in the book of Revelation up through chapter 20.” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 547)

But the woman was given two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place. (12:14) This symbolizes the Divine vigilance for the New Church and protection while it was still among a few.” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 561)

“But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river

which the dragon had spewed out of its mouth. (12:16) This symbolically means that the multitude of reasonings flowing from falsities that followers of the dragon put forward come to nothing in the face of the spiritual truths rationally understood that are advanced by the Michaels of whom the New Church is formed.” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 564)

June 10 – The Two Beasts

Revelation 13

And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on its horns ten jewels, and on its heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, whose feet were like those of a bear, and its mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave it its power, its throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of its heads appearing as though fatally wounded, and its mortal injury was healed. And all the earth went marveling after

the beast. ⁴ Then they worshiped the dragon which gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?” ⁵ And it was given a mouth speaking great and

blasphemous things, and it was given authority to do so for forty-two months. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship it, all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and it had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And it exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose mortal injury was healed. . . . ¹⁶ And it causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive from it a mark on their right hand and on their foreheads, ¹⁷ so that no one can



The Beast from the Sea and the Beast from the Land, from Trinity Apocalypse c. 1255

buy or sell if he does not have the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of its name.¹⁸ Here is wisdom: let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and its number is 666.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The dragon is the heresy of faith alone. It prevails and reigns in consequence of its reception by the laity. This reception is the beast. (*Apocalypse Revealed* 575)

"Who is like the beast? Who can fight against it?" This symbolizes the preeminence of that doctrine over any other because no one can dispute it. The beast symbolizes the general populace, thus the church, and in an abstract sense, its doctrine. *"Who can fight against it?"* means, symbolically, "Who can dispute that a person cannot do any spiritual good of himself." And because this cannot be disputed, are we not saved, then, through faith apart from works of the law? But this conclusion is absurd, indeed in itself insane, as anyone can see who has some knowledge of and wisdom from the Word. *"Who can fight against it?"* also means symbolically that the leaders of the church and its teachers after them have so cleverly and skillfully defended and thus fortified the doctrine by arguments that it cannot be attacked. (*Apocalypse Revealed* 581)

"So that no one can buy or sell if he does not have the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of its name." This symbolically means that no one is allowed to teach from the Word, or consequently to be inaugurated into the priesthood, to be accorded the badge of the teaching office, to be granted the doctor's cap, and called orthodox, but one who acknowledges that doctrine (*of the atonement*) and swears to a belief in it and love for it, and to such as is in conformity with it, or such as does not conflict with it. (*Apocalypse Revealed* 606)



"And its number is 666." This symbolically means, their character being this, that by them all the Word's truth has been falsified. This is the symbolic meaning because six has the same symbolism as three multiplied by two, and three symbolizes completeness and all and is predicated of truths, while two symbolizes the marriage of truth and good. So, because six is composed of these two numbers multiplied together, therefore it symbolizes every truth in the Word having to do with goodness, in this case that truth falsified. (*Apocalypse Revealed* 610)

June 11 – The Lamb and the 144,000

Revelation 14

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.² And I

heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and before the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the

earth.⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - ⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the

*hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*⁸ And another angel followed, saying, *"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her licentiousness."*

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle...¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, *"Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are ripe."*¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vintage of the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The Lamb and the 144,000 are the Lord as to His innocence and those of the New Christian Heaven who worship Him (*AR 614*). The One on the Cloud who reaches with His sickle into the world to reap the vine of the earth is the Lord as to the Word, according to which all are judged (*AR 642*). The characters in these chapters stand for the opposing sides in the conflict that will resolve the issues described earlier, as the New Heaven and the New Church are formed by the Lord.

"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand." This symbolizes the Lord now present in a new heaven composed of people in the Christian churches who acknowledged the Lord alone as God of heaven and earth, and had doctrinal truths springing from the goodness of love received from Him through the Word. This heaven is the new heaven from which the holy Jerusalem, or New Church, will descend on earth. The heavens that existed before the Lord's advent are above it and are called the ancient heavens. The people in them also all acknowledge the Lord alone as God of heaven and earth. Those heavens communicate with this new heaven through influx. *Apocalypse Revealed 612*

"So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vintage of the vine of the earth." This symbolizes the end of the present Christian Church. *Apocalypse Revealed 650*

"And threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God." This symbolizes an examination of the character of the people's works, revealing that their works were evil. *Apocalypse Revealed 651*

"And blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles." This symbolizes the violence done to the Word by the people's dreadful falsifications of truth, and the consequent understanding of it so closed up that it was scarcely possible for anyone any longer to be taught by it, and so to be led by the Lord through Divine truths. *Apocalypse Revealed 653*

Part 5: The Lord draws near

The gathering of the grapes means the exploration of the quality of the lives of the people of the church (*AR 651*). The seven bowls of judgment poured out on the earth depict the effect of the Lord's love when He draws near at the time of the end of the church, when people are not good (*AR 676*).

June 12 – The Seven Last Plagues – 1-4

Revelation 15

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete... I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.⁶ And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in clean bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden sashes.⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended.

Revelation 16

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, *"Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God onto the earth."*

² So the **first went and poured out his bowl** upon the earth, and an evil and noxious sore formed in people who had the mark of the beast and those

who worshiped its image.

³ Then the **second angel poured out his bowl** onto the sea, and it became blood as though of a dead man, and every living creature in the sea died.

⁴ Then the **third angel poured out his bowl** onto the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

⁸ Then the **fourth angel poured out his bowl** onto the sun, and it was given to him to scorch people with fire. ⁹ And people were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The seven bowls of judgment poured out on the earth depict the effect of the Lord's love when He draws near at the time of the end of the church, when people are not good. *Apocalypse Revealed 676*

The first bowl is the effect of His love on the clergy: Their evils are revealed (*AR 677*).

The second bowl is its effect on the laity: Their love of evil is revealed (*AR 680*).

The third bowl reveals the nature of the understanding of the Word: that it is false (*AR 684*).

The fourth bowl reveals the nature of their love: that love from the Lord is torture to them (*AR 690*).

June 13 – The Seven Last Plagues – 5-7

Revelation 16

Then the **fifth angel poured out his bowl** upon the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of their suffering. ¹¹ And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their sufferings and because of their sores, and did not repent of their works.



¹² Then the **sixth angel poured out his bowl** upon the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the rising of the sun might be made ready.

¹⁷ Then the **seventh angel poured out his bowl** into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven from the throne, saying, "*It is done!*" ¹⁸ And there were voices and lightnings and thunderings; and there was a great earthquake, such as had not occurred since people were on the earth, so great was the earthquake. ¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath. ²⁰ Then every island

fled away, and mountains were not found. ²¹ And great hail from heaven about the weight of a talent fell upon people. And people blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, as the plague was exceedingly great.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The fifth bowl reveals their faith, that they cannot endure truth (*AR 694*).

The sixth bowl describes their power of reasoning: "*And its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the rising of the sun might be made ready.*" This symbolically means that the falsities in those reasonings were removed in the case of people who possess truths

from the Lord that spring from goodness, and who are to be introduced into the New Church. (*AR 700*).

"The seventh angel's pouring out his bowl symbolizes, here as before, influx. The air symbolizes the whole scope of their perception and thought, thus of their faith, and consequently also the character generally of all those people in that church

caught up in a faith divorced from charity.” (AR 708).

And a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven from the throne, saying, "It is done!" This symbolically means that it was thus made manifest by the Lord that every element of the church was destroyed, and that the Last Judgment was now imminent. (AR 709)

June 14 – The Woman on a Scarlet Beast

Revelation 17

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed whoredom, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her licentiousness." ³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her licentiousness. ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of the Whoredoms and Abominations of the Earth.*

⁶ And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered with great wonder.

⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, those whose names have not been written in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ This is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must remain a short time. ¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, is itself the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to destruction. ¹⁴ These will do battle with the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome



them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is the great city which holds sway over the kings of the earth."

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

The "woman sitting on a scarlet beast" is religion that applies all things of the Word to acquiring dominion for themselves. They "claim for themselves all the power of the Lord's Divine humanity, and for that reason deny His Divinity, and who apply everything in the Word to acquiring dominion for themselves over the sanctities of the church and heaven, and for that reason adulterate the Word." (Apocalypse Revealed 723)

Yet they still believe that the Word supports them, and this then is the scarlet beast that she rides.

"Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he will only continue a short time." This means that all the Divine truths of the Word have been destroyed, except this one, that all authority in heaven and in earth was given to the Lord; and except another, which has not yet come into question; and when it does, it will not remain; which is, that the Lord's Human is Divine. By "five" is not meant five, but all the rest; here all the rest of the Divine truths of the Word, which are meant by "kings." They are said "to fall," because kings are spoken of, who fall by the sword. By "one is" nothing else is meant but this Divine truth, that all power was given to the Lord according to the words of the Lord Himself. That this one has not been destroyed is because otherwise they could not claim to themselves

dominion over all things of the church and the Word and over heaven. [2] By "*the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he will only continue a short time*" is meant the Divine truth which has not yet come in question, and when it does, will not remain with them, which is, that the Lord's Human is Divine." *Apocalypse Revealed* 738

Part 6: The Last Battle

All of these events culminate in one final battle, describing the conclusion of humanity's struggle with evil. The Man on the White Horse is the Lord appearing to disperse evil and reestablish His Church on earth (AR 820). The evils and falsities represented by the dragon, the beast, and their armies, are powerless against Him now that they have been exposed. They are captured and sent into captivity.

June 15 – The White Horse

Revelation 18

Then after these things I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and it has become a dwelling place of demons.*"

²¹ Then a mighty angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "*Thus shall Babylon, that great city, be forcefully thrown down, and not be found anymore.*"

Revelation 19

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and does combat. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many jewels. He had a name written that no one knew but Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a garment stained with blood, and His name is called "*The Word of God.*" ¹⁴ And the hosts in heaven followed Him on white horses,

clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of His mouth went forth a sharp sword, that with it He might strike the nations, and He will shepherd them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the fury and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written: "*King of kings and Lord of lords.*"

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "*Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,* ¹⁸ *that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of*

horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who worked signs in its presence, by which he led astray those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were slain with the sword of Him who sat on the horse, which went forth from His mouth.

Revelation 20

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound it for a thousand years; ³ and he cast it into the bottomless pit, and shut it up, and set a seal on it, so that it should not lead the nations astray any more till the thousand years were completed. But after that it must be released for a little while.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

"*Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.* This symbolizes the spiritual sense of the



Word revealed by the Lord and the deeper meaning of the Word thereby disclosed, which is the coming of the Lord... A horse symbolizes an understanding of the Word, and a white horse a deeper understanding. And because this is the symbolic meaning of a white horse, and a deeper understanding of the Word is an understanding of the spiritual sense, therefore that sense is here symbolized by the white horse.

This is the coming of the Lord, because that sense makes it clearly apparent that the Lord embodies the Word, that the Word deals with Him alone, that He is God of heaven and earth, and that the New Church originates from Him alone.

The Lord told His disciples that they would see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with glory and power. And the Lord said this also when He spoke with His disciples about the culmination of the age, which is the final period of the church when a judgment takes place. This is the spiritual sense of the Word revealed by the Lord, which is indeed the Lord's coming." *Apocalypse Revealed 820*

June 16 – The Great White Throne

Revelation 20

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was entrusted to them. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the Word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there was not found any place for them.¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and their books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, in accordance with the things which were written in their books.¹³ Then the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hell delivered up the dead who were in them. And they

were judged, each one according to his works.¹⁴ Then Death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

"By the "*books*" are meant the interior things of the minds of those being judged. The interior things of the mind of everyone contain all the things that each one has thought, intended, spoken and done out of will or love, and understanding or faith. All these things are inscribed on the life of everyone with such exactness that nothing at all is missing." *Apocalypse Revealed 867*

"To "*live and reign with Christ for a thousand years*" does not mean literally for that time, but rather that these people had for a long time already been a part of the Lord's kingdom, even though they had been oppressed." *Apocalypse Revealed 849*

"The Last Judgment is nothing else than the end of the Church with one group of people, and the beginning with another. This end with one and beginning with another occurs when the Lord is not acknowledged any longer, and when there is no longer any charity." *Arcana Coelestia 3353*

Part 7: The New Jerusalem

Once the power of evil has been taken away, the New Jerusalem begins its descent into the world. This is the New Church coming to earth, a new era of the human race. It appears as a bride to depict the great love that now begins to grow on earth, a civilization that truly loves its Creator.

June 17 – The Holy City descends

Revelation 21

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And there was no more sea.² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a great voice from heaven saying, "*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. And He Himself will be with them their God.*"⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more toil

(suffering), for the former things have passed away."

⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely."⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."⁸ But the fearful, faithless, and abominable, and murderers, the sexually licentious, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."



⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit onto a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,¹¹ having the glory of God; and its light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, bright as crystal.¹² It had a great and high wall, and twelve gates, and over the gates twelve angels, with names written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:¹³ three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.¹⁵ And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.¹⁶ The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed at twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height were equal.¹⁷ Then he measured its wall, a hundred and forty-four cubits,

the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.¹⁸ The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.²¹ The twelve

gates were twelve pearls: each gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.²³

The city had no

need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its lamp.²⁴ And the nations that are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it.²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut by day, for there shall be no night there.²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.²⁷ But there shall not enter it anything unclean, or that creates an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

"This New Church, truly Christian, which at this day is being established by the Lord, will endure to eternity, as is proved from the Word of both Testaments; also it was foreseen from the creation of the world; and it will be the crown of the four preceding churches, because it will have true faith and true charity. In this New Church there will be spiritual peace, glory, and internal blessedness of life, as is also proved from the Word of both Testaments." *Coronis 0*

"The Lord is at this day establishing a new church, one meant by the New Jerusalem in the book of

Revelation, that the worship in it will be worship of the Lord alone, as is the case in heaven, and that everything contained in the Lord's Prayer from beginning to end will be thus fulfilled." *Apocalypse Revealed* 839.7

June 18 – The Water of Life and Tree of Life

Revelation 22

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In between the street and the river on the one side and the other was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, yielding its fruit according to the month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ And nothing accursed shall be there, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ There shall be no night there: They have no need of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

“The river of water of life here means in particular an

abundance of Divine truths in the book of Revelation, which the Lord has now revealed. These Divine truths regarding the Lord as being God of heaven and earth - truths which then emanate from Him and are received by people who will be in the New Jerusalem, truths that are contained in the book of Revelation - are those meant in particular by the river of water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. This river means that Divine Truths in abundance have now been revealed. The commandments of God could not be kept before the things here were revealed, because they were not understood.” *Apocalypse Revealed* 932

“In between the street and the river on the one side and the other was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits.” This symbolically means that

inmosty present within the doctrinal truths and consequent life in the New Church is the Lord in His Divine love, from whom flow all the goods that a person in that church does, apparently as though of himself.

The tree of life symbolizes the Lord in respect to His Divine love. Fruits symbolize the goods of love and charity that are called good works. The number twelve symbolizes all and is predicated of the goods and truths of the church. *Apocalypse Revealed* 932

June 19 – Behold I am coming quickly

Revelation 22

Then he said to me, “*These words are faithful and true.*” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. ⁷ “*Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.*” ⁸ Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ Then he said to me, “*See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book.*” ¹⁰ And he said to me, “*Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.*” ¹¹ *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.*”



and of those who keep the words of this book. *Worship God.*” ¹⁰ And he said to me, “*Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.*” ¹¹ *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.*”

¹² “*And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.*” ¹³ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have their power in the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ “*I, Jesus,*

have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." ¹⁷ And the spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add upon him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen

Explanations from the Heavenly Doctrine:

"Behold, I am coming quickly!" means, symbolically, that the Lord will surely come. *Quickly* symbolically means *surely*, and *coming* symbolically means that *He will come* - not in person, but in the Word, in which He will be visible to all those people who will be part of His New Church. This is the meaning of His coming in the clouds of heaven. "*Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book*" means, symbolically, that the Lord will give eternal life to people who keep and obey the doctrinal truths or precepts in this book, now laid open by the Lord."

Apocalypse Revealed 944

“This Second Coming of the Lord Is Taking Place by Means of Someone to Whom the Lord Has Manifested Himself in Person and Whom He Has Filled with His Spirit So That That Individual Can Present the Teachings of the



New Church on the Lord's Behalf through the Agency of the Word.

The Lord cannot manifest Himself to everyone in person, as has been shown just above, and yet He foretold that He would come and build a new church, which is the New Jerusalem. Therefore it follows that He is going to accomplish this through the agency of a human being who can not only accept these teachings intellectually but also

publish them in printed form.

I testify in truth that the Lord manifested Himself to me, his servant, and assigned me to this task; after doing so, He opened the sight of my spirit and brought me into the spiritual world; and He has allowed me to see the heavens and the hells and to have conversations with angels and spirits on a continual basis for many years now. I also testify that ever since the first day of this calling, I have accepted nothing regarding the teachings of this church from any

angel; what I have received has come from the Lord alone while I was reading the Word." *True Christianity 779*

“This New Church is the crown of all the churches that have ever existed on this planet because it will worship the one God, who can be seen, within whom is the God that cannot be seen, like a soul in a body. This is the only way we can form a partnership with God.” *True Christianity 787*

Summary

The proclamation on June 19th 1770 that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns is an announcement of the solution to every issue that the world faces. Over the past 250 years a dedicated few have seen the profound truth of this, a vision that will surely increase over time.

