

SWEDENBORG PUBLISHERS INTERNATIONAL

SPI NewsLetter

Volume XXIV, Fall 2014

EDITORIAL REMARKS

Beyond SPI's current support of translation of Swedenborg's works into other-than-English languages, it is clear from publishers' reports in this issue that marketing of translated works available in cyberspace continues apace. Notable is the availability online of Chinese texts of *Heaven and Hell*, *Divine Providence*, *Divine Love and Wisdom*, *Conjugal Love*, *True Christian Religion*, and *Apocalypse Revealed I*, and at newchristianbiblestudy.org/additional translations include texts in Czech, Dutch, French, Georgian, German Italian, Japanese, Malayalam (India) Norwegian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Zulu.

PUBLISHER REPORTS

Fountain Publishing By Karin Childs

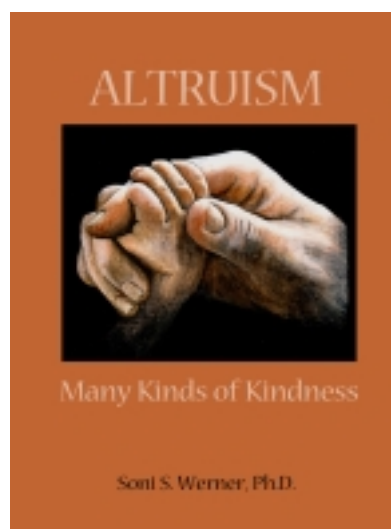
New publications for fall/winter 2014:



The Message of Love Behind the Ten Commandments
by Rev. Jonathan S. Rose, Ph.D.

A small book about a big covenant, between the human race and God. The biblical Ten

Commandments have usually been perceived as a stern set of rules. But is there another way to understand their message? Calling upon explanations from the works of Emanuel Swedenborg, Jonathan S. Rose delves deeper to find tender promises to each one of us from a loving God.



Altruism: Many Kinds of Kindness by Soni S. Werner, Ph.D.

Soni Werner takes a well-known passage from the Gospel of Matthew and uses it to explore the concept of altruism. Looking at examples from her own life, from worldwide efforts, from literature, and from psychological studies, Werner conveys ideas about applying these ways that Jesus asks us to serve our fellow human beings. Then, using theological insights from Emanuel Swedenborg, she digs even deeper to help us understand ways that we can relieve spiritual hunger, thirst, estrangement, nakedness, sickness and imprisonment as well as the physical forms of these afflictions. Werner guides us to see the "many kinds of kindness" that we have to choose from to make the most of this life we've been given. In reaching out to the people around us, we can grow closer to them and closer to God at the same time.



The Christmas Tree Garden by Laura Barger, illustrated by Sarah Berto

Every Christmas season, the royal family pursues their tradition of choosing a Christmas tree from the forest outside the castle walls. The king, queen, princess and princes all take turns selecting a tree to chop down and the decorations to adorn it with. In the forest, a tiny pine tree watches, not eager to face a sharp axe. When young prince Oberon takes his turn to choose the castle Christmas tree, he has a new idea about how to bring the tree home—an idea that changes the royal family tradition!



Wing of Earth, Wing of Fire by Amanda Leigh Rogers

A poignant collection of poems exploring the experience of having a human heart, with its mixture of spiritual and worldly yearnings, wonderings, pleasures and pain.

Due to a number of factors, we will be scaling back Fountain Publishing in 2015. More details to come in the Spring 2015 issue of SPI.
ftnpublish@aol.com

General Church Publications By Grant Odhner

Four Doctrines of the New Jerusalem, Emanuel Swedenborg. Translated by N. Bruce Rogers
ISBN: 978-0-945003-67-0 (HARDBACK) \$29.95

Published also in four separate volumes in paperback (\$9.95):

Doctrine of the New Jerusalem regarding the Lord
ISBN: 978-0-945003-68-7

Doctrine of the New Jerusalem regarding the Sacred Scripture
ISBN: 978-0-945003-69-4

Doctrine of Life for the New Jerusalem Founded on the Precepts of the Decalogue
ISBN: 978-0-945003-66-3

Doctrine of the New Jerusalem regarding Faith
ISBN: 978-0-945003-70-0

We are excited to be offering new translations of these seminal works!

Swedenborg's theological publications fall into two roughly equal periods. In the first period he published thirteen volumes over ten years (1749–1758). After a four year gap, he published twelve volumes over nine years (1763–1771).

The four works above (published only later in one volume) break the four- year hiatus, and set a tone for the second period of Swedenborg's work. He now takes a somewhat different approach, addressing individual doctrines in greater depth than he had previously. (In the previous period *The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine*, drawing from the *Arcana Coelestia*, treated of many doctrines but gave each just a few pages.) In his first work in this second period, *Doctrine of the New Jerusalem regarding the Lord*, he addresses the theology of the church of his day more directly than before, contrasting its understanding of the Lord in Scripture and in the Athanasian creed with that of the New Church. This more direct approach will surface increasingly in this second period. He also begins to use chapter headings and sub-headings in a more consistent way in unfolding his ideas. Finally, he begins to include accounts of his

spiritual experiences (SS 90, Faith 42, DP 340), though these do not appear in great number until *Apocalypse Revealed*.

The present translation has been done by Rev. N. Bruce Rogers. This makes the seventh volume of Swedenborg's theological writings for which he has prepared new Latin editions and made fresh translations. He tells us that this will be his last. We are grateful for his large contribution to bring the Heavenly Doctrine to people's minds and hearts!

Purchase at the Cathedral Bookstore, newchurchbooks.com, and in the near future, Amazon.com

Rock Point Press

By Joanna Hill

Swedenborg's Writings Made Accessible in New Book—*Spiritual Law: The Essence of Swedenborg's Divine Providence*

Press release: September 22, 2014: SANTA FE, NM. *Spiritual Law: The Essence of Swedenborg's Divine Providence* by Joanna V. Hill offers a clear and concise handbook for spiritual transformation (ISBN 978-0-9912516-0-5, 128 pages, \$15.95, paperback).

Drawing from eighteenth-century scientist and philosopher Emanuel Swedenborg's work, *Divine Providence*, this book brings Swedenborg's esoteric insights about the spiritual world to life in engaging and accessible prose. It explains the five spiritual laws that provide order to the spiritual world and outlines steps to guide us on our spiritual journeys. This work is the first in a series of "Swedenborg simplified" texts designed to make the Swedish seer's insights accessible to today's spiritual seekers. It is published by Rock Point Press in Santa Fe, New Mexico (www.rockpointpress.com), whose list includes creative nonfiction and historically based children's books in the areas of Southwest history, spirituality, and general trade. Rock Point Press books are represented to the trade by SCB Distributors of Gardena, California (800-729-6423). Author Joanna V. Hill is the co-author of three other books: *The Power of Prayer around the World*; *Words of Gratitude for Mind, Body, and Soul*; and *Tiffany's Swedenborgian Angels: Stained Glass Windows Representing the Seven Churches from the Book of Revelation*. Now living in

Santa Fe, Hill worked in scholarly and religious publishing for over forty years as a book designer, marketing manager, and director of two nonprofit publishers, including the Swedenborg Foundation. She earned a master's degree in Religious Studies at the Bryn Athyn College Theological School.

Spiritual Law: ISBN 978-0-9912516-0-5, 128 pages, \$15.95, paperback, October 2014

Review: "With the concision and clarity of a Zen master, Joanna Hill has crafted this quiet gem. Enjoy the essence of Swedenborg in a simplified, concentrated form. Delight in the power and sweetness of fine wine, distilled in the mind and heart of a woman who sees the love of God in the mind of an eighteenth-century scholar. Emerson once said that it would take whole colleges of ordinary scholars to comprehend Swedenborg. He did not know Joanna Hill, who not only comprehends Swedenborg, but elucidates his central teachings with clarity, precision, and love." Rev. Ray Silverman, PhD, author of *The Core of Johnny Appleseed: The Unknown Story of a Spiritual Trailblazer*, co-author of *Rise Above It!*, and editor of *Light in My Darkness* by Helen Keller

For more information, contact Joanna Hill: joannavhill@gmail.com or 267-304-8521

Swedenborg Foundation

By Morgan Beard

We were very excited this year to form a new collaboration with the Swedenborg Society in London. The Swedenborg Foundation will now be selling Swedenborg Society titles in North America through our wholesale distributor, meaning that bookstores, online retailers, and individual customers will now be able to order Swedenborg Society books the same way that they order our own. [See below from Carol Urbanc]

Through the same agreement, we will also be producing e-book editions of Swedenborg Society titles, which will also be available through the usual retail distribution channels. The most popular titles have already been converted and are available for sale; the others are in process.

We've also been working hard on producing some titles of our own, including a new mini-series from the New Century Edition and several books on regeneration.

Swedenborg published a series of short theological works in 1758 (*New Jerusalem, Last Judgment, White Horse, and Other Planets*) and another series in 1763 (*The Lord, Sacred Scripture, Life, Faith, and Supplements* [also known as *Continuation on the Last Judgment*]). The original plan for the New Century Edition called for these short works to be published in two separate volumes, grouped by the year in which they were originally published. In the hardcover Deluxe volumes, which include introductions, annotations, and other reference materials, this is still the case.

However, after some discussion, we decided to publish the short works separately in paperback (or, where the original was too short to be bound separately, combined with another short work of a similar theme). As with our other Portable editions, these will contain only the text of the translation, without the annotations or other reference materials, and will be published as a trade-sized paperbacks.

The Portable short works will be released in six volumes:

The Lord (November 2014)

Life / Faith (December 2014)

Sacred Scripture / White Horse (February 2015)

New Jerusalem (April 2015)

Last Judgment / Supplements (June 2015)

Other Planets (August 2015)

This division prompted quite a bit of internal discussion. Not only were we breaking up the traditional “Four Doctrines” of The Lord, Life, Faith, and Sacred Scripture, but Sacred Scripture would be published with a work that wasn’t one of the original Doctrines.

The goal of publishing the short works separately is to give us a better opportunity to market each one. Because these paperbacks are geared toward people who have never heard of Swedenborg before, they become an easy way for newcomers to learn about a particular aspect of Swedenborg’s theology. Someone who is intimidated by *True Christianity*, for example, might have a much easier time with *New Jerusalem*, while someone who wants to know specifically what Swedenborg has to say about the Lord now has a clear starting point. This also allows us to target our marketing toward a more specific audience.

Other works in the New Century Edition pipeline (publication date yet to be determined) include the Deluxe edition volumes *The Shorter Works of 1758* and *The Shorter Works of 1763*, as well as the third volume of *Secrets of Heaven*.

In other publication news, in August we published *Regeneration: Spiritual Growth and How It Works*, a series of excerpts from Swedenborg’s writings on the topic of regeneration. This is one of an ongoing series of books we’re doing that collect Swedenborg’s writings on a particular topic in one place. The first two volumes, *Our Life after Death* (focusing on the soul’s journey in the World of Spirits) and *The Lives of Angels* (on angels) were both well received, and *Regeneration* also proved to be popular.

Following close on its heels, in October we released *The Joy of Spiritual Living: Simple Steps to Your Best Self* by Frank Rose and Bob Maginel. The book contains a series of exercises that can be used by groups or individuals to increase their spiritual awareness. The pair had previously written *The Joy of Spiritual Growth* (1999), which offered similar exercises; an updated edition is currently in progress, which will be released in early 2015.

We also produced a third book on spiritual growth in late 2014, although we did not make it available for general sale. *Spiritual Growth: Lessons from Emanuel Swedenborg* is a series of quotes on regeneration with questions for reflection or discussion. We produced the book as a free giveaway for our members to either use or pass along, and we’ve gotten a great response. We hope to do more of these in the future.

And in the world of online publishing, the following on our Heaven and Hell Facebook page (where we post daily quotes from Swedenborg and related thinkers) has doubled over the past year to nearly 250,000 followers, with plenty of people commenting and sharing what they’ve seen.

On our Off the Left Eye YouTube channel, we post several videos every month. These can range from short, one-minute videos that focus on some aspect of Swedenborg’s thought to hour-long discussions that give in-depth answers to questions that people have asked us. Our more popular videos have been seen tens of thousands of times, with the record being held by “You Are the Lungs,” a video about the Universal Human that’s been seen more than 270,000 times as of this writing.

We’ve got even more new videos and new books planned for 2015, and we’re always open to new

ideas and new collaborations. If you're interested, please get in touch!

Morgan Beard, Operations Manager
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**The Swedenborg Foundation to Distribute
Eighteen Titles Published by the
Swedenborg Society**
Email from Carol Urbanc

West Chester, PA, October 16, 2014—The Swedenborg Foundation is pleased to announce that it is a distributor of eighteen titles published by the Swedenborg Society located in London, England. The Swedenborg Society has been publishing high-quality books about Emanuel Swedenborg for many years, but those books have been hard to find in North America because of high import costs. Now customers and booksellers on this side of the Atlantic will have easy access to these sought-after titles.

For the first time anywhere, Swedenborg Society titles are available as e-books. Formatted to work on any type of e-book reader (either a Kindle device or "EPUB" for all other devices), the e-book editions are offered at a substantial discount off the cover price of the printed volumes. Some of the older titles are still undergoing conversion, but will be available soon.

The eighteen titles include seventeen books and one video that cover a range of topics including classic reference works for research; biographies and memoirs about the life and works of Emanuel Swedenborg; essays that highlight Swedenborg's cultural and historical influence on philosophy, arts, life and literature; and books based on the Swedenborg's ideas.

Among the biographies and memoirs is *Swedenborg's Secret* by Lars Bergquist. Using a wealth of historical material, Bergquist paints a vivid portrait of an ambitious and practical man who was one of the greatest figures of the Enlightenment and who captivated generations of thinkers with his stunning vision of human destiny. Written in 1782, *Memoirs of Swedenborg* by Carl Robsahm is a compelling eyewitness account of Emanuel Swedenborg; this memoir is a classic in its own right and a primary resource for all subsequent biographies. *Heaven, Hell and Other Places: A Film about Emanuel Swedenborg* is an ideal introduction to the life and work of Emanuel

Swedenborg. Filmed on location in London, and Sweden, the documentary is presented by author and musician Philip Makatrewicz and features exclusive interviews with expert writers Gary Lachman, Lars Bergquist and many others.

The Swedenborg Society offerings include reprints of historically significant writings about Swedenborg; one such reprint is Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Swedenborg: Introducing the Mystic*, originally published as part of Emerson's book *Representative Men*, in which he examined what he considered to be history's more important thinkers. *On the True Philosopher and the True Philosophy: Essays on Swedenborg*, a 2013 release edited by Stephen McNeilly, examines Swedenborg's place in the history of ideas, offering an important critique of a controversial and neglected thinker and positioning his theories in terms of contemporary philosophical debate. Other collections of essays on Swedenborg's influence include *Swedenborg and His Readers* by Latinist and well-known translator John Chadwick and *The Grand Theme and Other Essays* by Swedenborgian scholar Anders Hallengren.

The journal of the Swedenborg Society, edited by Stephen McNeilly, brings together essays from some of the world's most respected scholars and thinkers on Swedenborg and his influence. Titles in this series include *Between Method and Madness: Essays on Swedenborg and Literature*; *In Search of the Absolute: Essays on Swedenborg and Literature*; *Philosophy, Literature, Mysticism*; and *The Arms of Morpheus: Essays on Swedenborg and Mysticism*.

Scholars and students of the works and ideas of Emanuel Swedenborg will find a selection of classic reference works that include *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772)*, Volume One and Volume 2 by Norman Ryder which list all of Swedenborg's published works in all languages; it contains a wealth of useful and fascinating information, revealing the stories and trends behind the reception of Swedenborg's works across the globe. Other reference titles include *A Lexicon to the Latin Text of the Theological Works of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772)* edited by Dr. John Chadwick and Dr. Jonathan S. Rose; *General Index to Swedenborg's Scripture Quotations* edited by Arthur Hodson Searle and J.F.E. Le Boys des Guays; and *The Swedenborg Concordance* by John Faulkner Potts.

Other works based on Swedenborg's ideas include *The Five Ages: Swedenborg's View of Spiritual*

History by P.L. Johnson which presents a compelling spiritual and psychological history of human evolution through extracts from Swedenborg's writings, neatly linking them with an engaging and informative commentary that places the ideas within the context of modern historical and archaeological knowledge. Kristin King's *Gardens of Heaven and Earth*, a lyrical study that explores the roles that gardens have played in delighting and sustaining the human condition throughout the ages, investigates the various meanings gardens have had for Emanuel Swedenborg and what meanings they might hold in turn for his readers.

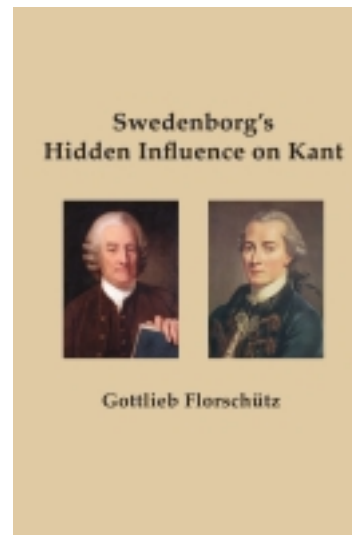
For a complete list of all titles and additional information, visit the Swedenborg Society book page in the Bookstore section on the Foundation's website www.swedenborg.com or contact info@swedenborg.com. You can also place an order by calling the Foundation at 610.430.3222 or order through our distributor by calling 800.621.2736 (in the USA & Canada) or 773.702.7000 (outside the USA & Canada).

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Swedenborg Scientific Association By Erland Brock

The latest work from the association is *Swedenborg's Hidden Influence on Kant* by Dr. Gottlieb Florschütz. In Dr. J. Durban Odhner's Foreword he says:

"This dissertation adds a new dimension to the age-old discussion of Swedenborg's impact on Immanuel Kant, not so much in the sense of bringing to light new evidence, but rather of introducing a new focus upon existing documents, with a chronologically sensitive arrangement and illuminating analysis. Particularly pertinent is the examination of Kant's hitherto little noted late lectures on rational psychology (circa 1790), never published. . . Florschütz' aim does not appear to be personally to align himself with either of two philosophical standpoints, but rather to contrast the concepts they harbor, pungently demonstrating the important phases of Kant's development, his vacillations and self-contradictions in cognitive



paradigm—and his eventual reconciliation with Swedenborg. The dissertation also touches on the motivational duplicity in Kant's attitude toward Swedenborg as evidenced in communications with some of his contemporaries."

ISBN: 978-0-910557-90-0

310p.

Available at Amazon.com

\$19.95

New Marketing for NCAP Publishers

Among Lisa Childs' many responsibilities in the SSA is marketing. She has prepared a new catalog for NCAP publishers (Academy of the New Church Press, Bryn Athyn College Press, General Church Press, General Church Office of Education, and the Swedenborg Scientific Association) to be used in an upcoming marketing program. The catalog includes new and recent titles as well as back-listed ones.

A Few Remarks on Swedenborg and the Science of Other Worlds

By Stuart Shotwell

(The following observations were recorded by Stuart Shotwell for a conversation between Shotwell and Fitzhugh L. Shaw, September 2010. Quotations are adapted from the 1846 translation of the *Principia* by Augustus Clissold.)

The most well-known passages in the work of Swedenborg pertaining to the controversy about the existence of other worlds are to be found in the

theological works. Here Swedenborg claims to have visited other worlds in visions, and his accounts of different worlds follow a fairly regular order of topics, evidently patterned after contemporary ethnography.

More interesting to historians of science, however, and more neglected, is his discussion in his *Principia*, book 3, chapter 2, "On the Diversities of Worlds." It functions as a stand-alone essay summarizing his view of this controversy so interesting to his times; and here he takes up the following issues that are basic to exoplanetary studies.

1. He makes the "argument from plenitude," usually today based on probability. That is, he argues that the universe is so vast and contains so many stellar systems that pure force of number necessitates the existence of an incalculably large number of exoplanets: "How many myriads of solar systems there may be! And if in one sky or sky field there may be myriads of such systems, how countless must be the number of the planets with their satellites, especially in comparison with the number of sky [fields]. Indeed the astronomer is lost in attempting the calculation." He argues, furthermore, that "there is nothing to prevent us from conjecturing that . . . new solar systems may be coming into being at every moment."

2. He makes the "argument from similitude" about the nature of other worlds: "We may also conjecture, that each earth in its infancy would be similar to our in its infancy."

3. He is aware, however, of the dangers of the arguments from plenitude and similitude: "From a mere possibility, however, we cannot reason to what actually is. . . . Since we cannot presume that . . . all other worlds are absolutely similar to our own, so we cannot presume them to be tenanted by a precisely similar race of living creatures." (He later specifically affirms the probabilistic likelihood that worlds will differ; see item 5 below.)

4. He has a rudimentary grasp of the concept of planetary ecosystem. This appears in his argument, made on the basis of the classical concept of the chain of being and the necessary plenitude of minerals, plants, and animals required to fill out that chain, that a planetary environment consists of interdependent organisms resting on a chemical-

mineral substructure: "The animal kingdom derives its origin from the vegetable, out of which it receives nourishment; . . . and again from the mineral kingdom, because it consists of parts derived from that system. . . . Were, however, any part wanting, the world would cease to be so perfect, because some part would be deficient in the order of connection, some link deficient in the chain. Hence the perfection of the world consists in varieties."

5. He enlarges upon the probabilistic nature of evolution: "Suppose the world went through a thousand changes before arriving at its end state (that it actually passed through many a thousand will be demonstrated . . .); now if, in one among these thousand changes, there occurred even a single variation, it would from that time progress to a kind of end state different from what it otherwise would. Hence were these thousand changes successively multiplied into each other, according to the rule of progression, even thus we should not arrive at the number of variations produced, which would be so immense that volumes could not comprise them. . . . Hence it follows. . . . that no world can be absolutely similar to another."

6. He acknowledges the effect of varying physical environments on the evolution of living creatures. "In other worlds, the air and ether, if there is anything similar to them, are not subject to the similar tremulations [i.e., they must vary in the way they transmit sound and light waves]. The organs of sight and hearing are also affected by the air and ether in a different manner; nor perhaps are our organs capable of receiving the undulations [i.e., the wave frequencies] of their elements [i.e., atmospheric gases or light-bearing ether], because they are not constituted in accordance with their mechanism and motions. The animals of this world might there, perhaps, be deprived of the use of their senses." He perceives that different physical conditions on other planets may render functionless certain mechanical devices taken for granted on Earth, with the further implication that living organisms there will be affected: "Machines of every kind might there, perhaps, be constructed by different rules and by a different application of mechanical powers." Thus it is clear that he understood the determining effects on life processes of such physical conditions as average

temperature and humidity, density of atmosphere, and intensity of gravitational and magnetic fields.

7. He briefly offers the possibility that the laws of physics do not obtain universally. The “primitive force” of the most basic particle (which the science of his time referred to as “the simple”) can be varied “in infinite ways,” he suggests. Thus it is possible for the natural systems on exoplanets to arise “not only after the manner in which it is presented to our view in this world, but in ways infinitely varied.”

8. He is not content with *a priori* conjecture about the nature of exoplanets, but accepts the impotence of science to understand exobiology considering the existing “limit of our information.” He concludes: “In this, therefore, consists our highest wisdom, that we know how small is the extent of our knowledge.” It is significant that he undertakes no rigorous mathematical modeling of these questions, implicitly acknowledging that the lack of empirical data will doom any such attempt to irrelevance.

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Christian Bible Study Project

By Brian David

Swedenborg made a database. We think of him writing his long texts with his quill pens; and his output was incredible. But even more incredible to me was his database mindset expressed, for example, in his indexing and cross-referencing.

The New Christian Bible Study Project used a grant from SPI to keep building our big multilingual database of the Word and the Writings. This started with an intensive effort to separate the Writings passages into their sub-paragraphs, with each sub-paragraph’s text becoming a record in our main database. This was complicated because, while most translators have mostly adopted Potts’s sub-paragraph numbering scheme, there are still thousands of differences.

Then, based on previous work done by the STAIRS and Kempton projects, we carried out a project to sweep again through the scripture references in the Writings, locating them in the texts

in some translations, and relating them at the sub-paragraph level for other translations.

We followed that with a painstaking effort to locate and link up the internal cross-references in the Writings. We built on work done a couple of decades ago by Jan and Walter Weiss in the GrandMan Search software, and after a fair amount of pain-taking effort, we’ve got most of them.

We also revised the data structure for the Schreck translation of Prophets and Psalms, which allowed us to provide the side-by-side views of the literal and internal senses more readily for that vast swath of Bible text.

Along the way, we also did quite a bit of text cleaning to get rid of incorrect characters and weird spacing, and touched up the formatting of prefaces and translator notes.

All in all, readers of Swedenborg’s works online can now have a great user experience—clean text, the ability to pull up related scriptures in a side-by-side view, and the ability to follow cross-references easily, and then come back to the main stream of thought.

This database work also means that, for new translations of the Writings, we will be able to provide a framework, since structure, numbering, and references ripple across all languages. Future translators can focus more on the wording, and get more translating done in less time. What’s not to like?

Steve David for the New Christian Bible Study Project

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