

SOUL FOOD



"These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father." (John 16:25)

June 2010

VISIONS OF HEAVEN



The Rev. Robert S. Jungé
(Revelation 12:1-9,13-17; True Christian Religion 791)

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.... And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads (Revelation 12:1,3).



Today we read about a vision that the disciple John had when he was an old man living on the island of Patmos. This was after the Lord had lived in the world as Jesus Christ and then risen to rule in heaven. While John was on Patmos, the Lord opened his spiritual eyes so that he could see into heaven. He saw special visions that showed him how a New Church - a new kind of Christianity - would begin.



John beheld a beautiful sight in heaven - a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And John knew that this woman was about to have a baby boy. It was a wonderful and beautiful vision.



But then John saw another vision in heaven. It was a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns. Its tail drew in a third of the stars of heaven and cast them down to the earth. This horrible red dragon stood ready to eat up the beautiful woman's child as soon as he was born. But as soon as the child was born, the Lord took him up to heaven, where the angels would protect him. The woman fled to the wilderness, where there was not any food. Still, the Lord protected her and fed her. Then the dragon cast out of his mouth a flood of water so that the woman would be drowned; but the Lord gave her two wings like those of a great eagle to fly with, and the earth swallowed the flood. Finally the dragon was captured by the Lord's angels (see Revelation 20:1-3).



Now this story tells us that if we really love the Lord, the way the beautiful woman did, He will protect us from all harm. Our Heavenly Father will watch over us, just as He took care of the baby boy and the

woman. The Lord is always ready to help anyone who really needs His help. But we must want the Lord to help us; we must pray to Him and always try to obey Him. Then, no matter how evil spirits try to get us to do evil things, no matter how they try to harm us, the Lord will always help us.

Now in the Heavenly Doctrine that the Lord has revealed to us we learn that the beautiful woman John saw was like the New Church. The New Church can be beautiful in just the way she was, if we all learn to really love the Lord.

The New Church is only just beginning. It is beautiful and wonderful, shining with the light of truth - like a woman clothed with the sun. What it teaches, however, is known only by a very few. And these few are just beginning to know what it means to make all things new, what it really is to make a new church. Many of the things we know are very basic. But the good people in the church love these basic things.

These basic teachings are like a newborn baby. The Lord protects them tenderly in His new heaven and in the hearts of those who love Him. And the Lord is fostering and protecting His church even as He protected the beautiful woman. He cares for our infant understanding, even as He caught the male child up to heaven.

There are many false ideas in the world today. Only with the Lord's help can the church possibly live and grow. This growth may take many years, and in our human judgment we may become impatient. Yet the more we are faithful in the tasks we see, the more we give ourselves to the Lord, the sooner He will be able to carry out His purposes.

No matter what age we live in, no matter what stage the church is in, the Lord is always calling us, and inviting us to call on Him.

Prayer: *Lord, help us to be like Your angel Michael, who fought against the great red dragon. The dragon represents selfish and worldly desires which can lead us to think that we do not need to do what the Word tells us to do. Help us to stand up for what is right, to follow You even when it seems easier to go another way. Give us the sword of Your truth so that we may be prepared for spiritual battle against the dragons inside ourselves. Amen.*

Thank you to one and all that have and continue to offer and give help, support and love to the Phans ☺ They appreciate the kind assistance with the children, the food made for them, and the services rendered to them. Please keep them in your prayers.

New Church Perspectives is an online magazine with essays published weekly. Essays are from a variety of writers and a variety of topics, all celebrating the understanding and application of New Church ideas.

<http://www.newchurchperspective.com/>

Church Library Contact Mary or Lisa for information on the many books available for borrowing – 9414 6986.

Sunday School Please see within the calendar below for teaching roster and change with others if you cannot make that date.

News Last month saw a goodbye to Borris as he departed for Singapore where he will serve in the Police Force for two years – he will be missed! There was a lovely doctrinal discussion held at the Frosts home focusing on worry and trust that was well attended. We look forward to future doctrinal discussions.

Journey Programs The ‘Building Healthy Relationships’ course will be starting soon – potentially with two home groups, one north of the river and one south of the river. Stay posted for more information or see Mary/Bernice to find out more or to register your interest.

JUNE CALENDAR

	MORNING	EVENING	VENUE
Sat 5 th		3:30pm Management Meeting at Frosts – vision and strategy focus	Frosts Home
Sun 6 th		Worship 5:00pm Followed by a shared meal	10 Broome St
Sun 13 th	Worship 10:30am (Sunday School: Amy) Followed by a shared meal		10 Broome St
Sun 20 th	Worship 10:30am (Sunday School: Lisa) Followed by NEW CHURCH DAY celebrations and special lunch		10 Broome St
Sun 27 th	Worship 10:30am (Sunday School: Amy) Followed by a shared meal		10 Broome St

Worship Services are held weekly at
 10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)
 the first Sunday's services at 5pm
 the rest at 10.30am

General Church of the New Jerusalem in Perth

10 Broome St. South Perth (off Douglas St)

www.newchurch.org

Based on the Holy Bible, The New Church gains further inspiration and understanding from the Lord's New Revelation given through the 18th century scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. The 35 volumes of theology, set out the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.

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*We sponsor **“The Loving Arms Mission”** in Nepal, a home for orphaned children. Donations gladly accepted.*

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