

## THE HISTORY OF THE WORD REVEALED ON EARTH—THE ANCIENT WORD

The Writings seem to distinguish between the Word of Enoch and the Ancient Word: Enoch's Word was "received from the mouth" of the Most Ancients,"(*Arcana Coelestia* 4442) "reserved for use by descendants" (*Arcana Coelestia* 521), and it was "representative of the Lord and served spiritually to mean His kingdom. Thus to them the internal sense was the Word itself" (*Arcana Coelestia* 3432.2). This was the Word that

started the Ancient Church. But, then “....they also had a written Word, both historical and prophetic” (Ibid). This “written Word” is identified with the “Wars of Jehovah and Enunciators”(Arcana Coelestia 2897). It seems to have come *after* “the Word” of Enoch, for it says “and *afterwards* they had a written Word, both historical and prophetic; the internal sense has perished today, 3432:2” (Arcana Coelestia Index 23, emphasis added).

Assuming there were two stages of the Word involved here, we note that there have been five different processes of giving the Word to people: the first was the Lord as the Word “face to face”, second was the same Word by means of the first angels. This Word was “written on the heart.” Next came the invention of writing and taking down what was overheard or “received from the mouth,” the last posterity of the Most Ancient Church (Arcana Coelestia 1241, 4442). Now, after the Flood, the Ancient Word “was given... by an influx into their interiors,” which was *not* dictation. The *influx* which was not *dictation* applies before the Old Testament, which is the fifth method: namely “dictation” from angelic spirits, word for word (Heaven and Hell 254).

In whatever way the Ancient Word was inspired, it incorporated “made-up” history which was inherited from the Most Ancient Church (Arcana Coelestia 66). “The most ancient style of the Word [was] connected in the manner of history, but involving heavenly arcana” (Arcana Coelestia 742). In the Most Ancient Church these may have been oral traditions, i.e. “tales” of fictional history, similar to the myths of native cultures, Hinduism, Greece and Rome and Scandinavia etc. In fact, one way the Ancient Church fell, was because of such mythologies (Sacred Scripture 117).

So in the Ancient Church “it was customary...to set forth things as speaking together, such as wisdom, intelligence, knowledge; and also to give them names....The gods and

demigods of the ancients were nothing else,...devised to present their subjects in a historical form” (*Arcana Coelestia* 4442). “This style of writing was most pleasing to [the Ancients meant by Noah], [because] all things [were] wrapped up in representative figures, and...arranged in the form of history; and the more coherent the historical series, the better suited it was to their genius” (*Arcana Coelestia* 605). They “wrapped up” an enigmatical meaning in made-up stories, making up characters playing the roles of spiritual qualities or doctrines. The Lord flowed in and inspired this composition, giving all of it an internal sense (*Arcana Coelestia* 2686). “Regeneration” for example was given the name of a person, and everything he or she said and did explained the doctrine of regeneration. That is how also Aesop’s fables have survived as meaningful tales!

Genesis chapters one through 11 is one such “made-up” story containing a “very remote” spiritual sense. Such tales may have originated before the Flood, but they were not written until after it. If the Most Ancients or Ancients heard these stories, they would know the internal sense “by heart,” since it was a manner of expression. To us, their internal sense is the Heavenly Word, or Doctrine. Here is a bit of it, i.e. what they knew “by heart” or as angels see it, when hearing Genesis 5: 22-24. We find it in the *Arcana Coelestia*. These verses talk about Enoch’s lineage, and his “Word”: “But the seventh church cultivated the doctrine of faith, and knew doctrinal matters concerning truths and goods. Those of the seventh church were very few, but they preserved the doctrine of faith for the use of posterity” (cf. *Arcana Coelestia* 518, 520). Then Genesis 6:6-9, which describes the deluge and Noah and his sons preserved: “The Lord in His Divine Love and Wisdom then had mercy on man. He permitted the last posterity of the Most Ancient Church to extinguish itself. Of mercy, all of the will and understanding caused this extinction. Such was the Lord’s compassion. But the Lord foresaw that the human race might now be saved by a new

church. This new church was formed by reformation and regeneration, so that the man of this church could be endowed with charity, by means of the doctrine of faith” (cf. *Arcana Coelestia* 586, 591, 596, 610). Such was their understanding.

Besides Genesis chapters 1-11, the Ancient Word constituted the Wars of Jehovah, Enunciators, and the Book of Jasher. The Old Testament refers to them. “It is said in the Wars of Jehovah, ‘At Vaheb in Suphah, and the rivers of Arnon’” (Numbers 21:14,15). Enunciators contains the same quote. Joshua quotes the book of Jasher: “Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon: and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon! Is not this written in the Book of Jasher?” (Joshua 10:12,13) (*Sacred Scripture* 103). At some point in the Sinai desert, Moses included the made-up history of the Ancient Word—perhaps overdue from Pharaoh’s library!—before starting in on true history with Genesis chapter 12.

This Ancient Word was lost a long time after supplanting the even more lost Word of Enoch. Its correspondences became too “remote” for later generations to grasp, and began to be “falsified by many” (*Sacred Scripture* 102). In the Lord’s Divine Providence it was replaced by “another Word...less remote”—the Old Testament, started by Moses. However, in spite of being “lost,” part or all of the Ancient Word is still extant somewhere in Asia. (*Apocalypse Revealed* 11) In any case, it has left its mark: Besides a number of Ancient Sayings, some derived even from the Most Ancient Church; e.g. “peace be unto you”, “all is well”, “God reigns”, “the seed of woman will tread down the head of the serpent” (cf. *Arcana Coelestia* 5662, 3780:5, 8331) meaning “the Lord will come to save the human race” (*Arcana Coelestia* 1123), there are also “religious principles” which have survived: “The Ancient Church extended over a great part of the continent of Asia, [and] was divided into many, all of them having that Ancient Word. From these the religious principles of many nations were derived” (*Apocalypse Explained* 1177). Hinduism’s four Vedas (Rig, Sama, Yayur, Atharva) some think

began way up north around 3500 BC, and were brought across the Himalayas around 1800 BC by white Aryans mingling with the local Harappans and Dravidians in India; then around 600 BC in China, Daoism interpolated by Lao Tzu and Confucius, and in India, Buddhism derived from Hinduism in this same century, as well as Shintoism, Spiritism and the Korean ancestor worship, could all well be such ancient “religious principles” derived from the Ancient Church. The Heavenly Doctrines allow us to recognize re-statements of truths hailing from the Ancient Word.

Furthermore, reincarnation must be a relic from the Ancient Church. After angels could no longer visit humans—who had removed themselves too far—the afterlife gradually disappeared into legend and mystery. Whenever an angel visited later, people thought they would die! However, the process of regeneration remained known. Reincarnation is a remnant of the spiritual process of regeneration minus any visible goal or heaven to go to. Ergo, regeneration and going to heaven has turned into several incarnations back to earth. The objective is finally to break the cycle and obtain Nirvana,—the bliss of unity with eternity. Nirvana is, also called Dharmakaya, Satori, Shunyata, etc. Christians would call it “being saved” or “reborn” or “ecstasy”. Maslow equated all of these as ‘Numinosity.’ Nirvana and reincarnation are falsified truths from the Ancient Word. The Writings identify the bliss of Nirvana as the “peace of heaven” (*Heaven and Hell* 284), an ineffable delight only angels can feel. We humans only get a whiff of it as, for example, relief after wartime suffering, but it is also described as being “content in God”(Ibid.). And add the water of truth to Reincarnation and it turns back into Regeneration. Everyone has only one life, and it is eternal.