

Breaking Bread

Newsletter –

The Brisbane Society of The New Church,
Brisbane and South-East Queensland

Feb, Mar, Apr 2018



Art Work By Lenore Sandow

The Last Judgement

Most men believe that when the Last Judgment comes, all things in the visible world will be destroyed; that the earth will be consumed by fire; the sun and the moon dissipated; that the stars will vanish away; and that a new heaven and a new earth will afterwards arise. They have conceived this opinion from the prophetic revelations in which such things are mentioned. But that the case is very different may be seen from what has been shown above concerning the Last Judgment (n. 900, 931, 1850, 2117-2133); from which it is manifest that the Last Judgment is nothing else than the end of the church with one nation, and its beginning with another, which end and beginning occur when there is no longer any acknowledgment of the Lord, or what is the same, when there is no faith.

...these passages cannot be comprehended by anyone without the key, which is the internal sense...

... It is impossible for those who remain in the sense of the letter to know whether these things and those which follow in the chapter were spoken concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jewish nation, or concerning the end of days, called the Last Judgment; but they who are in the internal sense see clearly that the end of the church is here treated of, which end is what is here and elsewhere called the coming of the Lord and the consummation of the age."

Secrets of Heaven n.3353 – Emanuel Swedenborg

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Behold, I Come as a Thief in The Night

"Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matt 24:42-44

Secrets of Heaven 900

It is the last judgement for everybody when the Lord comes, either in general or in particular. That is to say, there was a last judgement when the Lord came into the world; there will be a last judgement when He comes in glory and there is a last judgement when He comes to each person in particular. There is also a last judgement awaiting everyone when he dies. This last judgement is meant by 'the third day' and 'the seventh day'. It is a holy day for people who have lived well, but not for those who have lived wickedly. Consequently 'the third day', and 'the seventh', apply to people for whom judgement points to death as well as to those for whom judgement points to life.

The Bible commands us to be watchful and this command comes with a warning that we will experience 'brokenness' in our lives if we fail to watch. Therefore, it is in the best interest of disciples to be watchful or in other words, every believer has a responsibility to obey this command to become a 'watchful disciple'.

What exactly are we watching for and how can we practice this spiritual state?

Watchfulness is more than a one-off act or event. It is an ongoing process. It is a lifestyle and a spiritual practice. In the Lord's own words, being watchful means being 'ready' for His coming.

DEVOTION

Watchfulness suggests that we are devoted to our cause, like a gardener carefully watching unripe fruit and waiting to harvest it. We must faithfully and intentionally stay alert. This is why I use the word 'practice' for what we regularly practice becomes a habit in our lives. Watchfulness also suggests being intentional. It is 'all good and well' to develop habits but if those habits become unconscious then they become little more valuable than dead and dry rituals that people engage in because they are 'habitually' stuck. That is where 'intention' comes in. When we watch for the 'Coming of our Lord' intentionally then we are stimulating our thoughts and feelings daily, *through* practice and devotion.

INTENTIONAL SERVICE

When we are actively serving the Lord, in reality, it is He that is serving us. In order for the Lord's love to flow into us, there must be a receiving heart and when we intentionally make efforts to serve Him, it creates the perfect conditions for receptivity. When we lovingly serve Him, then we are preparing ourselves to receive Him and His Love.

WATCHFULNESS IS BEING PREPARED

We must stay prepared. The Lord tells us that we 'do not know' the hour or day of His coming. In other words, we cannot predict when certain states within us (the Church) are going to end. Equally, we cannot predict when our life may be over and the time of 'judgment' is upon us. Just a side note – His 'coming' is referred to as a time of 'judgment'

because after we leave the body, we are lifted into the higher light of the spiritual world and we then are able to judge our own lives, choices and actions, from that new and heavenly light.

When we engage in spiritual practices that cause us to self-reflect and examine our lives from the wisdom of the Lord and the Word, we are then ‘training’ through those practices to live in higher light right now and thus the ‘Coming of the Lord’ (inward states ending and/or our earthly life ceasing) becomes a positive and uplifting experience rather than a painful ‘*thief in the night*’.

When we practice watchfulness and preparedness, life-changing events become an overflowing ‘cup’ of blessing. When we fail to ‘watch’, then comes loss and unnecessary suffering. The Lord warns us that ‘our’ house will not be broken into if we are sufficiently spiritually ready. And if we are ready, then we are watching more like those who watch for the arrival of a dear and beloved friend.

It is wisdom, then, for us to be prepared for the Lord’s Coming as it is an unavoidable event for all who are alive on earth. If you already have spiritual practices, strengthen them by being ‘intentional’. Allow your heart to be filled with affection and devotion as you serve the Lord and engage in spiritual practice.

If you do not have a spiritual practice, then find a practice that –

1. Allows you to regularly come in contact with the Word.
2. Causes you to become self-reflective and self-examining.
3. Helps you to understand others rather than pass judgement on them for their choices and actions.

If you cannot find a practice that you are happy with, then I recommend reading a little bit of the Word (especially the four Gospels) every morning, day or evening and then ask yourself how you may apply to yourself (not others) what you are learning.

Whatever path you decide to take in finding a spiritual practice, I encourage you to – *live ready* – for in the words of Matthew 24 ‘*you do not know on what day your Lord is coming*’.

Amen
Rev Darren Brunne

The Months Ahead Unpacked

An explanation of the upcoming events from February to April and a little beyond

The Ten Promises

Beginning in February we will finish the series on the Ten Commandments by looking at the tenth and final promise. In March we will look at a summary of the Ten Promises focussing on the fact that they are symbolic of our entire spiritual regeneration process. In April we will start a new series called '*Adventures in the Apocalypse*'. This series will explore the book of Revelation drawing heavily upon the revelations we have through Swedenborg concerning the end of this church age and the establishment of a New Church. Our main focus will gravitate towards personal and practical revelation/application to aid us in becoming the 'Celestial Man'.

March Family Service – DOUBLE BAPTISM

On Sunday 4th of March, we will have the wonderful privilege of baptising two young children – Oliva and Liam Lewis. The parents, Corinne and Jamie, were introduced to the New Church when Les Shephard taught Religious education early on in his ministry. They are close family friends of the Shephards.

North-side Swedenborg Reading Group

February - Thursday 15th

March – No meeting due to Perth visit (see below).

April – Thursday 19th

On the third Thursday evening of the month from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at Bracken Ridge Library, the North-side Swedenborg Reading Group meets together to discuss '*Divine Providence*'. To all our north-side community (or our south-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like an additional spiritual boost to the month come join the stimulating discussion.

South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group

February - Thursday 8th

March - Thursday 8th

April – Thursday 12th

Once a month, on an alternating Thursday evening from 6 pm to 7:15 pm at Capalaba Library, the South-side Swedenborg Spiritual Support Group meets together to discuss principles of spiritual stability and growth. To all our south-side community (or our north-siders if you don't mind the travel), if you would like spiritual support come join the stimulating discussion.

Visiting Perth

Rev Darren Brunne will be in Perth at the end of the third week of March from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th. Friday to Sunday will be dedicated to a weekend workshop where we will cover all seven stages of the Spiritual Armour given to all believers. As disciples of Christ, we need to learn about and apply the Armour of God if we wish to be 'ready' and fully equipped for the spiritual work of regeneration. Those who are fully versed in the use and principle of Soul Armour, know how to fight the fight of Faith while relying on the mighty power of the Lord and His Word available to all believers.

Societal News

We are blessed to have Ken Thompson in good health upon making an excellent recovery after a heart scare in late December.

After the passing of Grant Dezilwa on 18th December 2017, Katarina has now returned to Melbourne to be with her family, at least for a time. We wish her well.

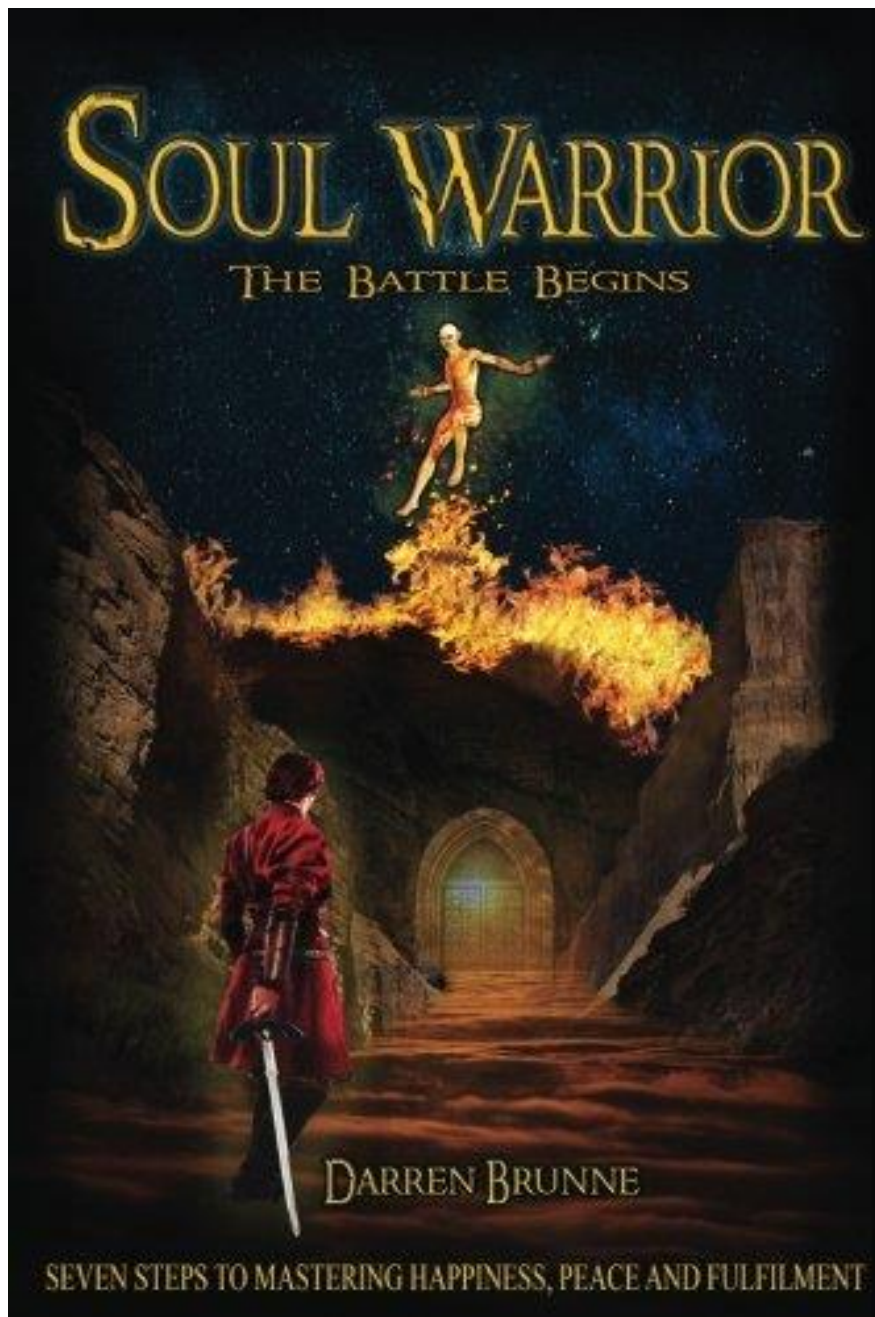
SOUL WARRIOR

Late last year, I completed the novel 'Soul Warrior' in which you, the reader, are taken on a journey of discovery into the practice of spiritual warfare. Follow apprentice Mathetis on his own awakening as he learns to use the whole armour of God. You will be introduced into all seven stages of the armour through a part story, part parable approached.

You can purchase the book through Amazon for \$15.99 US

https://www.amazon.com/Soul-Warrior-Mr-Darren-Brunne/dp/1981445838/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514376979&sr=1-1&keywords=soul+warrior+darren+brunne

or pick up a copy from our Brisbane Centre for \$20.00 during one of our services. Alternatively, you can contact me via darren@eternitynow.net and I can post you a copy of 'Soul Warrior' for \$20 AUS + postage.



Hot Food & Birthday Cake Roster for First Sunday Lunches

Feb	Fran
March	Bev
April	Renee
May	Gaye
June	Not applicable
July	Ray
Aug	Ruth
Sept	Anna
Oct	Vivian
Nov	Bev
Dec	We all pitch in for Christmas luncheon

Birthdays

To all our friends celebrating birthdays throughout these months, we wish you birthday greetings and blessings.

February

5th Eddie Duff, 6th Ken Barns, 8th Bev Sheppard, 22nd Livvy Fitzgerald,
23rd Paul Evans.

March

5th Mark Pitts, 21st Sarah MacFarlane, 23rd Matthew Arnold, 30th Ruth Evans, 31st Russell Eyles.

April

8th Lachlan Duff, 15th Gaye Heldon, 16th Alex Duff, 20th Peter Larsen, 27th Lachlan Glenn, 28th Kyan Heldon,
Jordan Brunne.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Our services are held at our Centre – 1/24 Railway Terrace, Dutton Park.
Always check the last page of the Calendar for services.

Pastor: Rev. Darren Brunne, contactable on 0421 319 252

Treasurer: Mr Brian Heldon, contactable on 0419 778 717

Secretary: Mrs Gaye Heldon, contactable on 07-5577 8772 or bgheldon@gmail.com
Address: P. O. Box 359, Sanctuary Cove, Qld. 4212

For activities on the Gold Coast and Mt Tamborine meetings contact Mrs Gaye Heldon on 07-5577 8772

Sunday School Co-ordinators:

Bev Sheppard, contactable on 07-3844 7187 or revshep@tpg.com.au

CALENDARS

Feb 2017

Sun 4th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER** led by
Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am ‘*The Ten Promises – The Tenth Promise*’

Fri 09th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at
12 p.m (*address to be advised*).

Sun 11th

Worship Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 18th

Abiding in the Vine led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

Sun 25th

Free for Home Church Visitation

March

Sun 4th

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER** led by
Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am ‘*The Ten Promises – An Overview of
Regeneration*’

Sun 11th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Fri 16th

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at
Brian and Gaye Heldon's at 12 pm.

Sun 18th

Abiding in the Vine led by Rev. Ian Arnold at 10:30 a.m.

Sun 25th

Free for Home Church Visitation

April

Sun 1st

1st SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE including **HOLY SUPPER** led by
Rev. Brunne at 10:30 am ‘*Adventures in the Apocalypse*’

Sun 8th

Sacred Circle, 10.30 a.m.

Sun 15th

Easter Service led by Rev. Brunne at 10:30 a.m.

Fri 20st

Mt Tamborine Discussion Group at
12 p.m (*address to be advised*).

Sun 22rd

Free for Home Church Visitation