

## **Part 1: The Maternal Human – When the sensory rules, the ‘green things’ are destroyed**

So if we bring it back to the Word, the sensory level is the sense of the letter of the Word. So person, place, time and space type experience where it's locked into that, is the sensory level. So with this number, AC 7691, what we have is the *green* is what is *sensitive* and the *sensitivity* here is being destroyed by the *locusts*.

*And there was not left any green thing.*

So the *locusts* are destroying what is left that is *green*. So green is *sensitivity* to what is true. So the reason the *green*, and we're talking plant life here, is *sensitive*, is because if you think about the correspondence, greenness and plants is sensitivity to sunlight. It's the reception of sunlight and photosynthesis and the conversion of sunlight into what is good, starches. So the green is being destroyed, the capacity to receive from the spiritual sun is destroyed when the sensuous is ruling in the mind or ruling that level of the mind. So you have to take out person and see it as there's a structure that belongs to the infernal proprium that needs to be vastated. So that our sense of self can be separated from thinking out of the senses and moved into thinking from the truths of the Word. That's the basic idea.

So the sensory is there to serve what is higher, that's its function. But when it rules, then it's destructive of spiritual life. So it's the serpent. That's what's being dealt with here - is the use of truths by what is evil and false in order to advance its own control and power. And that has to be exposed and dealt with. So again, it's the destruction of all those truths that have been turned to the service of what is evil. So they have become falsities but still hold on an external level, because remember the *infesters* or *infestation*, if you take it at a state level, can only occur where there is no knowledge of the Word, because that's the door in for them.

So an example is negative self-talk, particularly in the realm of low self-esteem, ‘*you’re no good*’, whatever it happens to be, you can run through whatever your experience of that kind of rumination is like. Now, because we're identified with it, the hells have access and they can pull us down using it, because in a sense they are using a truth. And the truth is, is that in and of ourselves, we're nothing but evil and false. That's a truth. But when we're identified with that evil and falsity, with that infernal proprium, then the hells can come in and say, ‘*look, you’re no, good!*’. Now, what they're saying is actually on one level is true, but because we're identified, we take it personally because we're identified in person. So then it becomes something that drags us down and binds us and holds us in a prison of destructive thinking. So the hells use truths, but they twist them. And this is something that if we can be more aware of it then we can find opportunity to get space from those sorts of thoughts and hopefully look at them from the light of the Word. To the point where we come to, ‘*well, yeah, the nature of self, born*

*of love of self and love of the world is nothing but evil and false. Like, that's just what it is. And that's what the Word says it is. So why do I have a problem with that?* Well, I have a problem because I'm still wanting to hold on to that - of still wanting that and yet wanting liberation. Well, unfortunately, the very thing you're holding onto is the thing you need liberation from. So it's subtle in some ways, but once you see how that kind of works, it's not that subtle. It's just that we have been blind to what truths teach concerning the nature of self.

So don't wrap up your whole sense of self in the sensory devastation that's being spoken about. What this is pointing out is that the sensory that is holding nothing but falsity needs to be dealt with. So it's talking about a process of exposing so that things can be separated and apportioned to their own place or set an order. There was a comment in here where it talks about as heaven is ordered so too are the hells... So it's just remembering that these are levels of the mind that have to be unpacked and set an order.

The fact is, is that this level of destruction of the green are the memory knowledges that has been gathered into the mind, so scientifics gathered into the mind, but organized according to that sense of self built out of the love of self and love of the world. Because where that is dominant, everything that's gone in has been organized to reinforce that. So the nature of the sensory has to be exposed. And that's what the Word is doing here. It's pointing out the nature of that level of life. And it's asking us to look at this. This is actually a state that is existing within the experience of our minds that needs sorting out. And the process is laid out here as to that process. Of what must happen. Not to condemn, but to set free what is of the Lord in us and to have our sense of self tied to that. So it's about the liberation of the sons of Israel or all those things at the memory knowledge level that are of the Lord that have to be raised up and elevated. And they're raised up and elevated as we gain a spiritual understanding of them as opposed to a sense-based understanding of them.



## Part 2: The Paternal Human – The difference between the letter, the literal sense and the internal sense

So obviously the Word has levels, and we have what are the historical elements of the story, which are drawn from the world; person place, time and space, that's the historical elements. What I'd say about that is that we tend to confuse *historicals* with the *letter* of the Word. They're not the same thing. The letter of the word is the Lord's flesh and bones. Person place, time and space of historicals is the maternal human.

So what happens is that when the Lord comes into the world, that is, into the world of your mind, into the natural, the externals of the Lord and the internals are apparently separated. So we have an understanding of historicals, which is not yet united to the spiritual sense of the Word. So that provides the first rung on Jacob's ladder. So every rung requires a death and constitutes a resurrection. A lower level of meaning has to be *put off* in order to enter into a higher level of meaning, or a lower idea of the Lord has to be *put off* to enter into a higher idea of the Lord or a more interior idea. So what you have in terms of the process, of our experience, is it appears as if the Lord's *Human Essence*, which is the letter of the Word, is separated from His *Divine Essence*, which is the spiritual sense of the Word, spiritual and celestial senses, the Divine. So the work, the Lord's work, is to unite His *Human Essence*, the *letter* of the Word, with His *Divine Essence*, the *spirit* of the Word. And that process is termed the glorification of the Lord's Human. So *human* means expression. *Esse* is Divine, Human is *Existere*. So all of these terms are interchangeable terms, describing the same thing. So it's worth the effort to have a list of those kinds of duals that you can transpose, because it opens up the meaning of things.

The Lord's glorification from an interior perspective has nothing to do with person place, time and space. So what we have this experience of is that as we enter into the Word, it's initially clothed with person place, time and space. And we go through a process of having to remove that level of meaning in order to free up a more interior level of meaning. As that is freed up, that interior level of meaning is the *Human* or the expression or the more refined truths that are being put on. And that is the *human from the Father*, or truth from good. The *good* is the practice, the willingness to do those things, that's the *practice*, which is good because it leads to the regeneration of the human mind and supports that. And then new insights are granted to the degree that we're willing to engage with the Word with a view to shining evils as sins - insights and illustration are granted. And so that is the *putting on* or the Lord assuming a *human from the Father while in the world*. So there's a lot of confusion about the human that the Lord assumes and what is glorified. Well, the *human from the mother* or the most external level, the historicals, is *not* what is glorified. It's the *human from the Father* that is.

So now just coming to the distinction between the *sense of the letter, that is, the historical meaning* of things, and the *letter itself*. So the *letter itself* can either project the mind out into historicals or it can serve to bring us interiorly into understanding spiritual and celestial realities or the realities that link to our affections and thoughts. And world of our affections and thoughts is what is real in terms of spiritual work.

I guess a way of looking at it is, is like if you knew nothing about Hebrew and you're just looking at the letters. And then suddenly by means of influx, those letters started to shine forth an interior meaning and there was no knowledge of an exterior meaning then the letter is still part of the Word, it *is* the Word, it's the Lord, but there's no sense of confusion or obscurity, it's just there and serves its function. But because we are steeped in person place, time and space meanings of words, we have difficulty. So there are these two levels of meaning, there's the historical meaning and then there's the interior meaning, the spiritual and celestial meaning. And we're kind of embedded in the lowest level, so that takes priority in our thinking until we step back from it.

Now when the Lord comes into the world or when spiritual truths shine their light into the natural, that's when we are released from thinking in terms of person place, time and space - we start thinking in terms of state. So that's why there's this time shift going on in the Text here. The first thing you have is the Most Ancient Church and so we think of it in terms of time. And then the Lord's coming and then it states...so the very last clause,

*... but in general all are meant who are of the church and who infest the upright in the other life, of whom there are very many at this day. (Arcana Coelestia 7686)*

So it's a cycle, it's cyclic. It's not limited to time. And so if you think of those early church descriptions as corresponding to our own states and development, then there are things of a strength of those sensual beliefs that are associated with the *Nephilim etc* and reasoning from the senses, that is still something that has to be overcome. So they are the residual of the early church states that we pass through in which the Lord is very much seen in terms of person place, time and space or in a way that's finite and closely associated with our understanding of what a human is. We project that onto the Lord and that becomes a very powerful barrier to seeing a more interior view or having a more interior view of the Lord as the Word.

So that experience of not being able to get out of time is what this is. That's what they are the *Nephilim etc*, because that is sense-based thinking dominating the thought. So when the letter of the Word then serves to bring insight into the interiors, the process side of things and we get a view of what proprium is and we get a view of what the Lord is, then what is happening there is that *the letter* of the Word is becoming *translucent*. It's beginning to shine because what's interior now, the interior meaning, is being held in the letter and the *sense of the letter* the historicals has been *put off*. And you know we

see it sometimes, for there are elements in the Word we can read, and we immediately think spiritually, we don't think in terms of the literal sense. But there's a lot of the Word that we end up being down in the literal element, the historical elements. So there is this idea here of not confusing the *sense of the letter* with the *letter itself*. The *letter* of the Word is the *cherubim* described in the garden that guard the way.

*... and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24)*

Now that can mean it either prevents what will profane from entering or it opens the way. So the *keeping of the way* is to guard the possibility for the regeneration of the human mind. And the *sense of the letter* of the Word is there to offer that protection and also to open possibility of a heavenly life, a spiritual life.

I think the whole thing is designed in a way whereby we have to accept that there are interior things. And so we have to 'as of self' make an effort to step back from an exterior meaning in order to try and find an interior meaning. And we're not going to find an interior meaning, a genuine interior meaning unless we're willing to enter into self-examination and repentance. Unless we're willing to shun evils as sins, that interior meaning stays closed. We can have memory knowledge of spiritual principles because they're all laid out in the books but as memory knowledge, they can't save, they can't produce anything. They can only begin to produce things by coming alive, by being extracted out of Egypt, which again is an example of person place, time and space, - which is hell - which is the maternal human - which is proprium. So all of these terms are interchangeable. And it's about seeing their linkages that starts to enable the Word to be opened up in terms of its application to the processes, to the interior aspects.

So it's the internal sense of the Word, that is the Lord. And it's the internal sense of the Word that transforms the mind. Because the internal sense of the Word is about celestial and spiritual things. Celestial things are the things that have to do with our affection and spiritual things are those things that have to do with the understanding or the thought. And what the Heavenly Doctrines declare about those is that they are *real things*. Or the things that really do pertain to eternal life, that's why they are real things. So yes - we so easily just roll over the words, thinking we understand what's being said. And more often than not, the common understanding that we have, or the sensual understanding that we have, is not adequate. It can't save. So what's related to our internal life has to come forward in order for us to gain any spiritual benefit from it.

### Part 3: The Divine Human – The recognition of the glory of the Lord as the Word

The Word is holy right down to the letter. The reason it's holy is because the letter holds what is interior, the interior meaning, and it's the *interior meaning* that *is the Lord*. The exterior meaning apart from the interior is not the Lord. So when truths enter your mind, they accommodate themselves to the various forms, the concepts and structures that you have, they accommodate themselves to your sense of things. So you take hold of a truth, and you understand it in relation to 'my self'.

For example, the idea that *the Lord saves*. We take hold of that truth, the Lord saves, and then we think, well, *the Lord saves me*. But the *me* that you're referring to is the *me* that's been built up out of the love of self and love of the world. So yes, the Lord will accommodate that. But that's an aspect of the maternal human, it's a falsity. But within it, there is a truth that the Lord is saviour so it's able to be accommodated. But as you progress and start to work with things, so then it becomes obvious that the proprium can't be saved, that's not how it works. So then you start to *put off* that idea that it is 'this self' that I believe myself to be that's being saved. And a different idea, a new concept is put on that is more aligned with what the Word teaches. And that's the *human from the Father*, or a new form. And even that form, we still hold that form as something, perhaps an insight that we've come up with. So there's still ownership over it. And then those elements of ownership have to be *put off*. And when they're *put off*, then there's a realisation that all good and truth is from the Lord, that the Lord alone is a self, that He lives. And that's the fullness of things. And so that process can be thought about in terms of a glorification. It started with the maternal false ideas, moved through to a progression towards a fuller understanding, a clearer understanding, and then a recognition that that understanding is from the Word or from the Lord itself.

So the story of the Lord glorifying his human while in the world is a representation of what needs to take place within the human mind for its regeneration to occur. And that's the important thing that can't be done without the *sense of the letter* because the sense of the letter is what provides the means by which elevation can occur. It's the bottom rank of Jacob's ladder. So there are two things, if you think about the double helix idea or the spiral staircase rope. The Lord has never not been glorified, He has always been in his glory. The aspect of Him not being in a glorified state is really tied to our perception of the Lord, not to the Lord Himself. So as the mind regenerates, so we come to see the glory of the Lord. We come to see him in fullness, greater and greater fullness. So the two strands are intimately connected. That as the human mind regenerates, it comes to see the Lord for who He truly is. And what is at the bottom of the ladder, the *appearances of the senses*, then become *united* with the *spiritual sense*. And that is what constitutes the Lord's Human being *glorified*. And it also constitutes the formation of a Divine Natural, or the Lord fully present in the *letter* ruling and reigning. So first things are ruling by means of ultimate things.