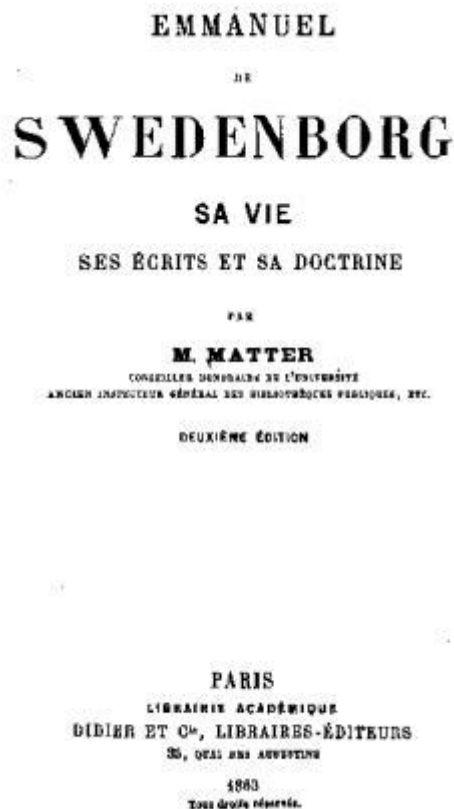


# Emmanuel De Swedenborg Sa Vie Ses Eacuteecrits Et Sa Doctrine



## emmanuel de swedenborg sa vie ses eacuteecrits et sa doctrine

emmanuel de swedenborg sa vie ses eacuteecrits et sa doctrine is a journey into the profound life, extensive writings, and transformative doctrine of a visionary figure whose ideas continue to resonate across centuries. This comprehensive exploration delves into the unique experiences of Emanuel Swedenborg, a Swedish scientist, philosopher, and theologian, whose spiritual awakening led him to produce a vast body of theological work that has captivated minds and influenced religious thought worldwide. We will examine the pivotal moments in his life, from his early scientific pursuits to his mystical encounters, and systematically analyze the key tenets of his complex doctrine, covering topics

such as the spiritual world, divine revelation, and the nature of God. Prepare to uncover the multifaceted legacy of this remarkable individual and understand why his teachings remain a subject of intense study and profound interest for those seeking deeper spiritual understanding and a unique perspective on the divine.

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  - The Genesis of a Spiritual Awakening
- The Theological Revolution: Swedenborg's Mystical Experiences
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## **Emanuel Swedenborg: A Life of Scientific Brilliance and Spiritual Revelation**

Emanuel Swedenborg's life is a captivating narrative of intellectual prowess seamlessly intertwined with profound spiritual experiences. Born in Stockholm in 1688, his early life was steeped in a scholarly environment, fostering a deep curiosity about the natural world and the universe. This early fascination laid the groundwork for a career that would initially be defined by groundbreaking scientific and engineering achievements. However, as his life progressed, Swedenborg underwent a dramatic transformation, embarking on a spiritual journey that would redefine his purpose and result in a monumental body of theological writings. Understanding the arc of his life, from the empirical world of science to the mystical realms of theology, is crucial to grasping the essence of his unique doctrine and the enduring impact of his work.

### **The Early Life and Scientific Career of Emanuel Swedenborg**

Emanuel Swedenborg's formative years were marked by a rigorous education and an insatiable appetite for knowledge. His father, Jesper Svedberg, a bishop and professor of theology, instilled in him a strong sense of faith and intellectual pursuit. Young Emanuel demonstrated an exceptional aptitude for mathematics and natural sciences, which he further honed during his university studies in

Uppsala. His early career was not focused on theological discourse but on the practical application of scientific principles. He was a prolific inventor and a keen observer of the natural world, contributing significantly to fields like metallurgy, mining, and mechanics.

### **From Metallurgy to Mechanics: Early Studies**

Upon graduating from Uppsala University in 1709, Swedenborg embarked on a period of extensive travel and study throughout Europe. During this time, he immersed himself in the latest scientific discoveries and engineering practices. His early publications reflected this engagement, focusing on practical inventions and scientific theories. He developed designs for a flying machine, a submarine, and a new method for transporting heavy loads, demonstrating a mind far ahead of its time. His deep understanding of physical laws and mechanical principles would later inform his theological insights, providing a unique framework for understanding spiritual realities.

### **Groundbreaking Contributions to Science and Engineering**

Swedenborg's scientific contributions were substantial and wide-ranging. He served as an assessor in the Royal College of Mines for many years, where he applied his expertise to improve mining techniques and increase productivity. His work in metallurgy led to advancements in the design of furnaces and the understanding of metal properties. Beyond mining, he explored anatomy, physiology, and even the nascent field of neurology. His anatomical studies, particularly those concerning the brain, were remarkably advanced for his era, hinting at his later insights into the human mind and its connection to the spiritual realm.

### **The Genesis of a Spiritual Awakening**

While Swedenborg's scientific career was impressive, the true turning point in his life was his profound spiritual awakening, which began in earnest around the age of fifty. This transition was not an abrupt rejection of his scientific pursuits but rather a gradual unfolding of a new dimension of perception. He

reported experiencing visions and dreams that provided him with direct access to the spiritual world. This period marked a significant shift in his focus, leading him to dedicate the remainder of his life to theological exploration and the dissemination of his spiritual discoveries through his writings.

## **The Theological Revolution: Swedenborg's Mystical Experiences**

Emanuel Swedenborg's theological revolution was born from a series of intense mystical experiences that radically altered his perception of reality. These encounters were not fleeting moments but rather ongoing interactions that provided him with what he believed was direct insight into the divine order and the spiritual cosmos. This shift from the empirical to the spiritual was the foundation upon which his entire doctrine was built, offering a unique synthesis of scientific inquiry and divine revelation.

### **The Unveiling of the Spiritual World**

Central to Swedenborg's mystical experiences was the claimed ability to perceive the spiritual world while remaining fully conscious in the physical world. He described this as an opening of his spiritual senses, allowing him to see, hear, and interact with spirits and angels. For Swedenborg, the spiritual world was not a distant, ethereal realm but a vibrant, tangible reality that existed in parallel with the physical universe. He believed that the physical world was a consequence and reflection of the spiritual world, governed by its laws and principles.

### **Encounters with Angels and Spirits**

Swedenborg detailed numerous encounters with angels and spirits from various planes of existence. He described these beings as having distinct forms and characters, reflecting their internal states and their proximity to the Divine. He learned from them, received divine wisdom, and was guided in his understanding of spiritual truths. These interactions were not presented as mere visions but as genuine communications that provided him with the knowledge to interpret scripture and explain the

workings of the spiritual economy.

### **The Role of Divine Illumination**

Swedenborg attributed his profound theological understanding not to his own intellect alone but to a process of divine illumination. He believed that God, through His grace, had granted him the ability to comprehend spiritual truths that were otherwise hidden from ordinary human perception. This divine light, he explained, guided his interpretation of the Bible and allowed him to unveil its hidden, spiritual meanings. This belief in direct divine revelation was a cornerstone of his theology and the source of his authority in presenting his doctrines.

## **The Vast Literary Legacy: Emmanuel Swedenborg's Ecclesiastical Writings**

Following his spiritual awakening, Emanuel Swedenborg dedicated himself to writing and publishing his theological insights, resulting in an extensive body of work that has come to be known as his ecclesiastical writings. These texts, characterized by their systematic exposition of spiritual truths, detailed descriptions of the spiritual world, and unique interpretations of scripture, form the bedrock of his enduring influence. His literary output was prolific, covering a wide range of theological subjects with unparalleled depth and clarity, making his doctrine accessible to a global audience.

### **Key Works on Spiritual Truths**

Swedenborg's most significant theological works are meticulously organized treatises that aim to explain the fundamental principles of spiritual life and divine order. Among these, the series known as the "Heavenly Arcana" (*Arcana Coelestia*) stands out. This monumental work, published in eight volumes between 1749 and 1756, systematically interprets the books of Genesis and Exodus,

uncovering their profound spiritual and symbolic meanings. It delves into the nature of the heavens, the structure of the spiritual world, and the inner life of the human soul. Other crucial works include "Theological Works," "On the Divine Providence," and "On the New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine," each offering distinct but complementary insights into his theological system.

## **The Interpretation of the Sacred Scriptures**

A central pillar of Swedenborg's literary legacy is his unique approach to biblical interpretation. He believed that the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, contained a hidden spiritual sense, an inner meaning that was divinely encoded. This doctrine of correspondences, which he expounded upon at length, posits that there is a profound relationship between the natural world and the spiritual world, and that this relationship is mirrored in the sacred texts. By understanding these correspondences, Swedenborg claimed to unlock the deeper, theological truths embedded within the literal narratives of scripture. His aim was not to discard the literal sense but to reveal the divine wisdom that lay beneath its surface, making the Bible a living guide to spiritual understanding.

## **Philosophical and Scientific Treatises**

While Swedenborg's later life was dominated by theology, his earlier scientific and philosophical writings remain a vital part of his intellectual output. Works such as "Principles of Chemistry," "The Principia," and "On the Sensation" showcase his rigorous scientific methodology and his quest to understand the fundamental laws of the universe. These early works reveal a mind deeply engaged with empirical observation and rational inquiry, a foundation that he would later build upon in his spiritual explorations. The continuity between his scientific and theological writings lies in his persistent search for order, causality, and inherent principles that govern existence, whether in the physical or spiritual realms.



# **The Core Tenets of Swedenborg's Doctrine: A Detailed Examination**

Emanuel Swedenborg's doctrine is a complex and intricate theological system, meticulously laid out in his extensive writings. It offers a distinctive perspective on God, creation, humanity, and the afterlife, characterized by a profound emphasis on divine love, wisdom, and order. Understanding the core tenets of his teachings is essential for appreciating the unique spiritual philosophy he presents. His doctrine is not merely a restatement of traditional religious beliefs but a radical reimagining, grounded in his claimed spiritual experiences and his unique interpretation of scripture.

## **The Nature of God: Divine Love and Wisdom**

At the heart of Swedenborg's doctrine lies his conception of God. He teaches that God is essentially Divine Love and Divine Wisdom, which are inseparable and constitute the very essence of the Divine Being. God is not a distant, judgmental entity but an infinite, loving Father who desires to impart His goodness and life to all of His creations. This Divine Love is the motive force behind creation, and Divine Wisdom is the form through which this love is expressed and organized. For Swedenborg, God is a living, active presence in the universe, constantly seeking to draw humanity closer to Himself.

## **The Triune God: A Unique Perspective**

Swedenborg presents a unique understanding of the Trinity, which differs significantly from traditional Christian doctrines. He asserts that God is One in essence and person, and that the Trinity is not composed of three distinct persons but is manifest in the Divine Human. This Divine Human is embodied in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the visible manifestation of the invisible God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are aspects or essential properties of this one Divine Person: the Father representing the Divine Essence, the Son the Divine Form or Human, and the Holy Spirit the Divine

Operation or influx into the world. This concept emphasizes the unity and indivisibility of God.

## **The Creation and the Spiritual World**

Swedenborg's doctrine teaches that the physical world is a creation that emanates from and reflects the spiritual world, which is the true domain of God and His angels. The spiritual world is organized into distinct heavens and hells, populated by the souls of deceased humans. These realms are not static but are shaped by the internal affections and thoughts of their inhabitants. He describes the spiritual world with remarkable detail, outlining its cities, landscapes, and the laws that govern spiritual interaction, emphasizing that it is a world of life and experience, not merely a disembodied existence.

### **The Lord Jesus Christ: Divine Human**

Central to Swedenborg's theology is the concept of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Divine Human, the embodiment of God in human form. He taught that Jesus Christ was not merely a man who became divine, but God Himself who took on human nature to redeem and restore humanity. The Incarnation was a divine act to unite the spiritual and natural realms and to make the Divine accessible to all. Through His life, suffering, and resurrection, Jesus Christ glorified His human, making it a vessel of Divine Love and Wisdom, and thereby enabling the salvation of mankind.

### **Salvation and Redemption**

Salvation, according to Swedenborg, is a process of regeneration, a spiritual transformation of the human mind and will through cooperation with divine grace. It is not a matter of simply believing in Christ's sacrifice but of actively embracing His teachings and allowing His Divine Love and Wisdom to shape one's life. Redemption, therefore, is the process by which individuals are delivered from the power of evil and restored to a state of spiritual health and harmony with God. This involves a conscious effort on the part of the individual to turn away from evil and toward good.

## **The Laws of Divine Providence**

Swedenborg's doctrine of Divine Providence is a fundamental aspect of his theology. He taught that God governs the universe with infinite love, wisdom, and foresight, guiding the course of human events for the ultimate good of His creation. Providence is not deterministic but allows for human freedom and responsibility. God works through various means, including natural laws, human actions, and spiritual influences, to bring about His purposes. The ultimate aim of Divine Providence is to lead humanity toward spiritual growth and eternal happiness.

## **The Doctrine of Correspondences**

The Doctrine of Correspondences is perhaps the most distinctive and influential aspect of Swedenborg's theology. It posits that there is a divinely established relationship between the natural world and the spiritual world, and that this relationship is reflected in the literal sense of the Sacred Scriptures. Everything in the natural world, from objects and events to actions and conditions, corresponds to something in the spiritual world. This doctrine provides a hermeneutical key for unlocking the hidden spiritual meanings within the Bible, revealing the symbolic language through which divine truths are communicated.

## **The Afterlife: A Detailed Account**

Swedenborg provided extensive and detailed accounts of the afterlife, based on his alleged experiences. He described the process of transition from the physical world to the spiritual world, the judgment that occurs immediately after death, and the subsequent states of existence in the heavens and hells. His descriptions emphasize that individuals continue to exist as conscious beings, retaining their memories, personalities, and faculties. The afterlife is portrayed as a continuation of life, where one's internal state determines their eternal destiny. He stressed that the heavens are places of joy and growth, while the hells are states of suffering resulting from the dominion of evil affections.

# Swedenborg's Influence and the Swedenborgian Church

The profound insights and unique theological system presented by Emanuel Swedenborg have had a significant and lasting impact on religious, philosophical, and cultural thought. His writings have inspired numerous individuals and movements, leading to the establishment of a distinct religious denomination known as the Swedenborgian Church, or the New Church. The ongoing study and interpretation of his doctrine continue to foster spiritual growth and intellectual engagement among adherents and scholars alike.

## Impact on Religious and Philosophical Thought

Swedenborg's ideas have influenced a diverse range of thinkers and traditions. His emphasis on the spiritual senses, the inner meaning of scripture, and the concept of divine providence resonated with various mystical and esoteric movements. His psychological insights into the human mind and its spiritual dimensions foreshadowed later developments in psychology and psychotherapy. Philosophers and theologians have engaged with his systematic approach to theology, his exploration of the divine attributes, and his unique cosmology, finding in his work a rich source of contemplation and debate.

## The Formation of the New Church

Following Swedenborg's death in 1772, his followers began to organize themselves into a distinct church, dedicated to disseminating his teachings and living according to his doctrines. This movement became known as the New Church, or the Church of the New Jerusalem, reflecting Swedenborg's belief that his writings heralded a new era of spiritual understanding. The first organized societies emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in Europe and North America. The Swedenborgian Church emphasizes the importance of the divine humanity of Jesus Christ, the spiritual interpretation of the Bible through correspondences, and the pursuit of a life of love and good works.

## **Modern Interpretations and Relevance**

In contemporary times, Swedenborg's writings continue to be studied and appreciated by a wide audience. His emphasis on divine love as the essence of God, the interconnectedness of the spiritual and natural worlds, and the ongoing process of spiritual growth offers a relevant framework for understanding life's challenges and pursuing spiritual fulfillment. Modern interpretations often focus on the practical application of his doctrines to daily life, emphasizing personal transformation, ethical living, and a compassionate engagement with the world. His exploration of the spiritual dimensions of human experience remains a source of inspiration and guidance for those seeking a deeper connection with the divine.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Qui était Emanuel Swedenborg et quand a-t-il vécu ?**

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) était un scientifique, inventeur, philosophe et mystique suédois. Il est principalement connu aujourd'hui pour ses écrits théologiques et spirituels, publiés après une série d'expériences spirituelles intenses qu'il aurait vécues.

### **Quels étaient les domaines scientifiques et techniques couverts par Swedenborg dans sa jeunesse et sa carrière ?**

Avant ses expériences spirituelles, Swedenborg était un scientifique prolifique. Il a écrit sur des sujets variés tels que la minéralogie, la métallurgie, la physiologie, l'anatomie, la cosmologie, et même la mécanique (il a conçu des idées pour un sous-marin et une machine volante).

### **Quel événement majeur a marqué le tournant spirituel dans la vie de**

## **Swedenborg et quand a-t-il eu lieu ?**

Le tournant spirituel majeur de Swedenborg s'est produit en 1745, à l'âge de 53 ans. Il a déclaré avoir eu une vision du Christ et avoir été chargé par lui de révéler le sens spirituel des Écritures.

## **Quel est le sujet principal des nombreux livres écrits par Swedenborg après son tournant spirituel ?**

Les livres qu'il a écrits après 1745 traitent principalement de la théologie, de la nature du monde spirituel, de la vie après la mort, de l'interprétation allégorique de la Bible (le sens spirituel), et de la doctrine de la Nouvelle Église.

## **Quel est le concept central de la doctrine de Swedenborg concernant l'amour divin et la vérité divine ?**

La doctrine de Swedenborg enseigne que l'amour divin est la substance même de l'univers et que Dieu est amour. La vérité divine est la forme de cet amour. Il soutient que les êtres humains peuvent se rapprocher de Dieu en cultivant l'amour pour le bien et la vérité.

## **Comment Swedenborg décrit-il le monde spirituel et la vie après la mort ?**

Swedenborg décrit le monde spirituel comme un royaume de vie où les esprits continuent d'exister sous une forme similaire à leur vie terrestre, mais avec une conscience accrue de leur état intérieur. Il a détaillé les différentes sociétés spirituelles et les expériences des âmes selon leur état d'amour et de pensée.

## **Quelle est l'interprétation swedenborgienne de la Bible, et pourquoi est-elle importante dans sa doctrine ?**

Swedenborg croyait que la Bible avait un sens spirituel caché derrière son sens littéral, un sens qui révèle les vérités divines sur l'amour, la charité et la vie céleste. Cette interprétation est fondamentale

à sa doctrine, car elle est la source de ses révélations théologiques.

## Comment la doctrine de Swedenborg a-t-elle influencé les mouvements religieux ou spirituels ultérieurs ?

La doctrine de Swedenborg a inspiré la fondation de plusieurs églises (les Églises de la Nouvelle Jérusalem) et a influencé divers penseurs, théologiens et artistes à travers le monde, y compris dans des mouvements tels que le transcendantalisme américain et diverses formes de mysticisme.

## Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to Emanuel Swedenborg's life, writings, and doctrine, each beginning with *and followed by a short description:*

### 1. *The Universal Man: Swedenborg's Vision of the Divine Human*

*This book explores Swedenborg's profound concept of the "Grand Man" or "Universal Man," arguing that the human form is a divine blueprint reflecting the order of the heavens. It delves into how Swedenborg saw the entire spiritual world organized in correspondence with the human body, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all things. The work highlights Swedenborg's belief that understanding the human form is key to understanding God and the universe.*

### 2. *Swedenborg and the New Jerusalem: Prophecy and the Dawn of a New Era*

*This title focuses on Swedenborg's claims of direct spiritual revelation and his prophecy of a "New Jerusalem" descending. It examines his extensive writings on divine providence, the Last Judgment, and the establishment of a new spiritual age. The book provides context for his followers' belief that he ushered in a new dispensation for humanity, marked by a deeper understanding of God's love and wisdom.*

### 3. *The Spiritual World Revealed: Swedenborg's Accounts of the Afterlife*

*This work delves into Swedenborg's detailed descriptions of the spiritual realm, as experienced and recorded by him. It investigates his accounts of heaven, hell, and the intermediate state, exploring the*

*laws and principles that govern these spiritual societies. The book offers insights into Swedenborg's understanding of human consciousness after death and the continuation of personal identity.*

#### *4. Wisdom from the Heavens: Swedenborg's Teachings on Divine Love and Wisdom*

*This title centers on Swedenborg's core theological doctrines, particularly his emphasis on God's boundless love and infinite wisdom. It unpacks his philosophical and theological arguments for the divine nature of love as the essence of creation and the driving force behind the universe. The book aims to make Swedenborg's complex spiritual concepts accessible, highlighting their practical implications for human life and spiritual growth.*

#### *5. Swedenborg's Journey: From Scientist to Seer*

*This book traces the remarkable intellectual and spiritual evolution of Emanuel Swedenborg. It examines his early life as a prominent scientist, inventor, and philosopher, detailing his significant contributions to fields like geology, anatomy, and metallurgy. The narrative then follows his profound spiritual awakening and the subsequent decades he dedicated to documenting his celestial experiences and theological insights.*

#### *6. The Law of Correspondences: Unlocking Spiritual Meaning in the World Around Us*

*This title explores Swedenborg's fundamental doctrine of correspondences, which posits that the natural world is a symbolic representation of the spiritual world. It explains how Swedenborg believed every element, from the smallest plant to the vast cosmos, holds a deeper spiritual meaning that can be understood through divine analogy. The book illustrates how this principle allows for the interpretation of Scripture and the natural world as a divine text.*

#### *7. Conjugal Love: Swedenborg's Vision of Divine Partnership in Marriage*

*This book focuses on Swedenborg's extensive treatise on conjugal love, examining his unique perspective on marriage as a sacred union reflecting divine principles. It explores his ideas on spiritual intimacy, the progression of love within marriage, and the eternal nature of such a bond. The work highlights Swedenborg's belief that the love between a husband and wife is the highest form of human love and a path to spiritual advancement.*



#### *8. The Apocalypse Revealed: Understanding the End Times Through Swedenborg's Eyes*

*This title delves into Swedenborg's interpretation of the Book of Revelation, presenting his unique spiritual exegesis of its prophecies. It explains how he saw the "Apocalypse" not as a literal destruction, but as a spiritual transformation and the establishment of a new church. The book provides Swedenborg's insights into the symbolic language of the Apocalypse and its relevance to the spiritual history of humanity.*

#### *9. Swedenborg's Theology: A Comprehensive Overview of His Spiritual Doctrine*

*This book offers a thorough and accessible introduction to the entirety of Swedenborg's theological system. It systematically covers his key doctrines, including the nature of God, the Trinity, the creation, salvation, and the organization of the spiritual world. The work serves as a foundational guide for understanding the breadth and depth of Swedenborg's religious philosophy and its enduring influence.*

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