

# Beginner's guide for Swedenborg reading and study

Swedenborg wrote 30 volumes of spiritual material, which can be a daunting proposition to a young or contemporary student wishing to know what Swedenborg says about particular topics, or how Swedenborg might answer a specific personal question.

So here is a short simple guide to help you read and use Swedenborg's materials and tools most effectively.

## General notes

Swedenborg indexed each paragraph of his writings with a number for easy reference, e.g. "Divine Providence 33" (or "DP33") means paragraph number 33 in a work called Divine Providence. His works are usually referred to by the following abbreviations in brackets (here their publication dates are also shown):

*Journal of Dreams* (JD, 1743-1744)

*Worship and Love of God* (WLG, 1745)

*The Word Explained*, also known as *Adversaria* (WE, 1746-1747)

*The Spiritual Diary* (SD, 1747-1765)

*Arcana Caelestia*, also known as *Heavenly Secrets* (AC or HS, 1749-1756)

*Earths in the Universe* (EU, 1758)

*Heaven and Hell* (HH, 1758)

*The Last Judgment* (LJ, 1758)

*The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine* (HD or NJHD, 1758)

*The White Horse of the Apocalypse* (WH, 1758)

*The Apocalypse Explained* (AE, 1759)

*The Athanasian Creed* (Ath, 1760)

*The Internal Sense of the Prophets and Psalms* (PP, 1761)

*On the Divine Love* (Div.Love 1762)

*On the Divine Wisdom* (Div.Wis. 1763)

*The Four Doctrines:*

- *the Lord* (Lord, 1763)
- *Sacred Scriptures* (SS, 1763)
- *Life* (Life, 1763)
- *Faith* (Faith, 1763)

*Continuation of the Last Judgment* (LJ Cont, 1763)

*Divine Love and Wisdom* (DLW, 1763)

*Divine Providence* (DP, 1764)

*Charity* (Charity, 1766)

*Apocalypse Revealed* (AR, 1766)

*Conjugal Love*, also known as *Marriage Love* (CL, 1768)

*Brief Exposition of the Doctrine of the New Church* (BE, 1769)

*Soul-Body Interaction* (SBI, 1769)

*True Christian Religion* also known as *True Christianity* (TCR or TC, 1771)

*The Coronis* (Cor, 1771)

*Answers to Nine Questions* (9Q, 1771)

## Key Resources

[Swedenborg.com.au](http://Swedenborg.com.au) = Australian website run by the *Swedenborg Association of Australia* (SAA, whose office is the *Swedenborg Centre*, 4 Shirley Road, Roseville NSW 2069).

Look on the home page or under the top menu for:

**“Events”** (right-hand column, check for any online/live/ hybrid-online-and-live events which may interest you; it’s as simple as clicking the “join zoom” link to join in once the event begins)

**“Candela”** (left-hand column, is a quarterly magazine that can be read online or downloaded to your computer as a PDF to read)

**“Resources”** (top menu, takes you to a number of pages of free downloadable study materials, like **audio** lectures, **PDF** booklets, and a list of **links** to other website which offer useful Swedenborg content – but that links page also contains three very useful introductory booklets for beginners under the heading **“Reading Guides”**)

**“About → Swedenborg”** (top menu, contains a whole page of facts, biographical details, testimonials by famous people about Swedenborg, and other historical background information about Swedenborg)

[Swedenborg.com](http://Swedenborg.com) (without the “.au” at the end!) = American website run by the *Swedenborg Foundation* (whose office is in Pennsylvania).

Look in the top menu for:

**“Off The Left Eye → YouTube Channel”** (excellent set of topical videos explaining Swedenborg writings on a large number of subjects in plain English with great illustrations and explanations)

**“Publishing →**

**Bookstore”** (all books which can be purchased from the Swedenborg Foundation)

**New Century Edition”** (NCE, all books produced by a Swedenborg Foundation team who are translating Swedenborg’s Latin writings into modern English with little or no jargon, all of which are also available for download as free PDFs)

**Free E-Books and Downloads”** (all books published by the Swedenborg Foundation which are available for download as free PDFs, including the above NCE editions as well as other collateral books – what other people have written about Swedenborg and his writings)

[Newchristianbiblestudy.org](http://Newchristianbiblestudy.org) = study website (loosely associated with the *Swedenborg Foundation* community in America).

Look in the top menu for:

**“The Bible”** (study the various books of the bible using and comparing popular editions; many of the world’s languages are available; the *Kempton Bible* is a translation produced by Swedenborg scholars; hyperlinks lead to Swedenborg explanations or further study, or click the green **“← Study”** button and the quill pen symbol to link to related Swedenborg passages)

**“Theology”** (search online or read online any of the books of Swedenborg in any translations or in many of the world’s languages; use the **“advance search”** link to open

up more features and choices to help search for a particular word, or set of words, or a phrase or subject that you are searching for)

**“Search”** magnifying glass symbol on a blue background (top right of menu bar; once opened, I suggest you look for and use the **“advance search”** link to open up more features and choices to help search for a particular word, or set of words, or a phrase or subject that you are searching for)

**“ChatBot”** robot-like speech bubble symbol on a green background (top right of menu bar; provides a way to ask any question in normal English language about any topic and it will provide a Swedenborg-based answer with clickable references to follow further if you wish)

**“More”** (top menu bar; contains lots of other useful study resources)