

Revelations—Part 2

April 5, 2013

From last week's discussion we discovered that apocalyptic literature establishes the inspiration and courage made possible by the hope of the imminent appearance of the kingdom of God to end a period of confusion and upheaval. Apocalyptic was written only in times of persecution, to give courage and hope to those persecuted. It was always written in code that could be understood only by those who understood the code. *It has no literal meaning.* (See page 1)

I love Colleen's question: Why did Mary Baker Eddy entitle her chapter referring to Revelations "The Apocalypse?" I think the answer lies in the definition. One further question we should discuss is: Why did MBE include Genesis and The Apocalypse at the end of Science and Health and no other books of the Bible? Why are these two books important to Christian Science?

The Seven Visions:

What is the significance of these visions? Note that these visions are the main body of Revelations. The answer is summed up by Hoyt at the top page 40. Colleen asks: Is the fullness of the Christ seeing the spiritual man and woman? I certainly think that is a part of the fullness of the Christ, but is that the totality? Perhaps a fuller understanding of Universal Salvation and infinite Love would be a link to this spiritual seeing.

As we work with the visions it is helpful to review on page 41 the organization and structure of the visions. The first three visions are building blocks to Vision 4 and make the last three visions possible. Also it is significant that thrones are involved in the visions and these represent dominion. The seven angels are the illuminators of the throne and appear throughout Revelations. I do not feel their alignment with the seven synonyms our Leader gives us for God is a coincidence. Angels are God's thoughts

passing to man to meet our need. Mrs. Eddy insight and understanding is phenomenal. "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need."

Hoyt clearly explains that Revelations is strictly dealing with types of thought. This is always important to remember as we read and study. There is no literal meaning of the elements of the Apocalypse.

Vision I

The 'first vision is a first importance.' What is the vision explaining and why is this of first importance. Look at the structure and seven parts making up the whole. How does the oneness of One, God pictured here compare with our understanding of God as presented by Christian Science? The correlation is amazing. Consider the symbolism of the 4 living creatures. Note the first footnote at the bottom of page 42.

Study questions:

What does a door opened in heaven signify?

What does it mean to 'come up hither'?

Colleen asked if the order of the stones and the correlation to crucifixion and resurrection they symbolize equate with the sweetness then bitterness of the digestion of the little book. How does Mrs. Eddy explain this? I would say certainly resurrection is sweet and crucifixion bitter, but there is a cross to be taken up. (S&H page 559:21)

This is jumping a little forward into Vision 3.

Colleen also asked why Hoyt used a different order for the tribes and stones. I think Hoyt is giving us the clear order as they align to the gates of the holy city, New Jerusalem. Each gate is an entrance to the city and represents the qualities that must be present to enter the city. See pages 107 through 114 in Hoyt book to have a clearer understanding of this. I spent a year studying these qualities of thought and wrote an entire association address on this. Colleen asked: How does the symbolism of Revelation help us to heal? The question could be rephrased to ask: How do the qualities and condition of thought affect healing? The symbolism in the apocalyptic

literature is of vast significance to establishing correct thought to make spiritual progress and be the healers that Mary Baker Eddy expected us to be. It is to be imbued with the Christ consciousness. We could spend much time on this subject. What points in Vision 1 are inspirational and significant to you? Each of us has something to share here.

Vision 2

The theme of vision 2 is on page 50. It is "in the establishment of the qualities of true selfhood, all false thinking is silenced. All I can say to that is Alleluia! Pay special attention to the application of each of the living creatures' quality to the silencing of erroneous thinking. What is the effect of erroneous thinking?

How does the oneness of God form a foundation for the establishment of true selfhood that follows naturally?

What do the four horsemen symbolize and why are horses used? How are they destroyed?

What does the "souls of the martyrs" symbolize? How does this quality destroy self-pity?

What is the source of turbulence and upheaval? What eliminates this erroneous condition?

(see Hoyt page 55 last two paragraphs)

Who are the servants? How are servants sealed? What is the significance and effect of this sealing?

What inspiration or transforming thought do you find useful in this vision?

Vision 3

The theme of this vision is "the Declaration of Truth starts the self-destruction of all materialism." One observation I find very comforting is that materialism is self-destroyed. All erroneous thinking is destroyed by understanding the allness of God. We aren't really doing anything except awakening to our true selfhood. We are merely

reflecting God and recognizing His all power and do not have to create or do any difficult original work. God is the originator and only creator.

What is the significance of the blowing of the trumpets?

Who are the saints? Are we saints?

What is the power or effect of declarations of Truth? I truly love the analogy of the burning grass. I saw firsthand how a little spark can completely burn a field in a matter of minutes.

What did you learn from the symbols in this vision? I was drawn to the ships and the false dependence on commerce as a source of security.

What are the types of erroneous thinking that are handled in this vision?

Isn't the power of the simple expression of gratitude amazing?

At this point we come to the interlude which is the beginning of the chapter on the Apocalypse in Science and Health. Why did Mary Baker Eddy choose this specific verse? Hoyt tells us everything about this angel is indicative of light and illumination.

What are the two gifts the angel presents to John? Mrs. Eddy asks the reader to consider if the book contains the revelation of divine Science. It all fits together perfectly. It is the declaration of Truth that destroys all error. Hoyt states: "This is the end of the interlude, and the end of the "veil" obstruction."

I love the early Christians used hymns to declare the Truth. Music and praise are a true form of uplifted spiritual healing thought. I have experienced healing from a beautiful solo that lifted my thought out of depression into joy and the problem dissipated into its 'native nothingness.'

The declaration to the 3rd woe to materialism is lovely. Hoyt states: "All the hosts of heaven pronounce a glorious declaration of the complete power and dominion made available in the recognition of the oneness of God and the Christ. ... [It] is the realization of the infinite power and dominion of God, the All-Mighty." Do you think that these declarations of Truth are the basis for Christian Science treatment? Hoyt brings to light the establishment of thought necessary for the reception of the fullness of the Christ.

Vision 4

We have seen in Vision 1 the establishment of the allness, oneness of the One—God. Then in Vision 2 we have the establishment of ‘true selfhood.’ Vision 3 is ‘the opening wedge to further unfoldment. Here the declaration of Truth starts the self-destruction of all materialism.’ We are promised by Christ Jesus that another Comforter be given that will abide with us forever.

As I read from Science and Health in the chapter on the Apocalypse I saw that Genesis begins with the spiritual creation of man in the image and likeness of God. Then a mist arises and obscures the true selfhood of man—the spiritual real man, and the belief in the material mortal unreal appears. Mankind is mystified, confused and mesmerized by materialistic thinking. Revelation prophesizes the restoration of the true real spiritual man and the destruction of all that is material and unreal. (See S&H page 561:20) Hoyt states on page 70: “Is it possible for a true revelation to be obscured and dimmed? Why can such a thing occur? Because sometimes the Revelation is not sufficiently established to keep it clear and untouched.” Do you think the Mary Baker Eddy was concerned about this aspect in the development of church? Who are our pastors?

The theme of Vision 4 is “the full Revelation of Establishment of “the fullness of the Christ completely annihilates all Phases of Resistance to the Truth, (the dragon thought)

How do we as Christian Scientist view the woman in the Apolcalypse? Mrs. Eddy tells us she typifies generic man. I think it is important to remember that ‘generic man’ is defined as the spiritual idea of God. Does the woman in the Apocalypse typify the spiritual idea of God’s motherhood? I feel that it does. The completeness of God as Father-Mother is realized. I think Colleen’s poster of the windows of the original edifice of TMC beautifully reveals the importance of this vision. The largest and most prominent window is the Woman crowned with twelve stars.

