

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? On page 562:3-7 we are told the woman does typify the spiritual idea of God’s motherhood. Do you feel Revelations is indicating this? Is this an element of completion and the ‘fullness of the Christ?’ From this we can see that the woman in the Apocalypse has more than one meaning. What else do you think Mrs. Eddy is telling us about the woman in the Apocalypse? The completeness of God as Father-Mother is revealed. I think Colleen’s poster of the windows of the original

edifice of TMC beautifully reveals the importance of this vision. The most prominently placed window is the Woman crowned with twelve stars.

I would like to focus on Science and Health for the part of this Vision in this chapter using Hoyt as a backdrop and translation of the symbols and Bible scholarship.

Certainly our leader was a Bible scholar of the first order. Hoyt validates this when she states the ten horns of the dragon are indicative of the ten emperors who preceded the emperor of that era. In a footnote she states that some scholars felt that the ten horns might be an allusion to an attempt to overthrow the Ten Commandments. Mrs. Eddy prefers this interpretation. (See S&H page 563:11)

I have gone through the section for our study of Science and Health underlining the things that jumped out at me. I suggest you do the same and let's share our inspiration. I feel this is the best method for us to discuss the material. From this study why do you think this chapter is in Science and Health? What is so important about this part of the Bible to us now?

Hoyt brings out on page 75 interesting points on blasphemy. Our modern day counterpart would be domination and malpractice. In the defining statements of blasphemy she said that the Judaists called Jesus a blasphemer because he was not teaching or operating according to the rules they had set down. She makes the analogy of a doctor not following the rules of the medical association or a lawyer not subscribing to the rules of the bar. Do you think that in our churches that a culture arose that might have set up rules that were never intended by Mrs. Eddy that engender a lack of love toward each other and judgment and unmerited criticism rather than gentle loving healing correction? Have we been malpractitioners of the Manual? Have we been less than loving at times? What is the vital part of CS? What is the rule for motives and acts? Is it wrong to correct? (See S&H page 570:30-14)

The interlude in Vision 4 is particularly interesting. Hoyt gives us a Biblical definition of patience taken from Revelations 14:13-14. She tells us that it is 'the patience of the

saints in their application of the power of the Revelation that overcomes domination, manipulation, and malpractice.’ The patience of the saints is not inactive waiting. It consists of ‘three activities.’ “The first point is to “keep the commandments of God.” The second point of patience is “to keep...the faith of Jesus” in other words, actively to apply the teachings of Jesus the Christ. The third point [is to establish] the words or proofs of those teachings.” Could we sum these up by first obedience, second faith or expectancy of good, third practice or healing? This patient work must be done to overthrow evil.

The last step in Vision 4 is more difficult but it reveals that suffering is ineffective to prevent spiritual results. In fact Hoyt tells us “...spiritual results come through suffering, in the process of the elimination of false thinking.” Mrs. Eddy validates this by her statement: “The very circumstance, which your suffering sense deems wrathful and afflictive, Love can make an angel entertained unawares.” (see S&H page 574:27-30)