

# Christian Science: The Second Coming of Christ

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We know Christian Science is the Second Coming of Christ, but just how much have we really appreciated what this means to us, and for the world? Just what is the future of this Comforter Jesus promised would abide with us forever, especially in a world dominated by medical science as we have seen during the pandemic?

Perhaps we feel a little like Jesus when he “cried with a loud voice” on the cross:

*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (Mark 15:34)*

Jesus knew he was fulfilling prophecy. He understood that prophecy is God’s omniscience revealing to human consciousness the way out of materiality by which humanity is saved and God is glorified. Even though he was experiencing a revolutionary struggle against the world, Jesus knew it was a battle that was not his own, it was God’s. And God never forsakes His spiritual idea. He knew absolute victory was the only outcome for infinite Love.

In the shadow of his impending crucifixion, Jesus promised us peace. And then he said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) And he did, proving his eternal life in Spirit through the resurrection and ascension. To feel a spiritual confidence during the trials of today – from delays perhaps in long-sought healings, to declining numbers in our churches, and an increasingly troublesome world – we need to appreciate more fully what it means that Christian Science is the Second Coming of Christ.

To better gain this appreciation, we need to take a walk back through history, from Bible times to today, and gain an all-encompassing perspective as to just how our omnipotent God has never forsaken us. When we gain this higher view, we will have less doubt that there ever was a moment when God’s will of complete salvation could ever be thwarted. While we know God knows nothing of the suffering of material existence, God is eternal, omnipotent divine Love which never fails us. This perfect, omniscient Love is embracing our world now more than ever. After all, failure is built into all the schemes of mortal mind, because being rooted in sin it always misses its mark. But the glory of God, whereby His spiritual idea is also glorified, is a genuine guarantee. *Science and Health* says, “The promises will be fulfilled.” So, we need to

understand what these prophetic promises are, because this understanding can lead to more healing for all of us. This certainly proved true in my own experience.

About seven years ago I began listening to Christian songs on the radio. I have now come to appreciate hundreds of songs that have a pure message of strong faith, sincere love and a desire to follow Christ. But there was one song that bothered me. It said, "Jesus is coming soon," and upon hearing it I would turn it off. In March of 2017 I chaperoned a trip to New York City with my daughters' choir group, but on the day to head home I awoke with a painful knee that made it difficult for me to walk. My prayers lead me to think more deeply about the Second Coming of Christ. *Science & Health* speaks of waking up to the truth of who we are as, "the forever coming of Christ, the advanced appearing of Truth, which casts out error and heals the sick." Mary Baker Eddy also saw how Christian Science fulfilled Bible prophecy when she wrote in Miscellany:

*"It is authentically said that one expositor of Daniel's dates fixed the year 1866 or 1867 for the return of Christ — the return of the spiritual idea to the material earth or antipode of heaven. It is a marked coincidence that those dates were the first two years of my discovery of Christian Science." (My 181:27)*

I began to understand more fully that Christian Science accepted into thought reveals the Christ in each of us, and the healing record of Christian Science is proof of this reappearing. The Second Coming is the birth and maturity of the "babe of Christian healing" enabled by the Holy Spirit. In Revelation Chapter 12 this advent is the new birth taking place in generic man by the mothering love of God in thought. It is the reign of Christ in human consciousness that rules out all sin whereby each of us is being "caught up unto God, and to his throne" through our ascension out of matter. With these insights, the knee problem was fully healed within a few days. I saw with clarity that the Second Coming is here, and it must be seen, acknowledged and experienced by all.

Soon after this healing, the song stated previously came on the radio again, but this time I did not turn it off out of self-righteousness. I saw that behind the belief, that the same human Jesus who lived 2,000 years ago is to come down from heaven to reign over all the earth during the millennium, was a sincere and right desire for the healing power of the Christ to again be demonstrated with glorified proof for all to see. Clearly, this healing had taught me a wonderful lesson in humility, especially when considering the Second Coming. And I soon realized I had been remiss in not studying my Bible sufficiently on the topic. Jesus told us we err if we do not know our Scriptures, and he saw it of great importance that his followers understood his fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. This proved his authority was of God and his healing and teaching of divine origin. And our Leader certainly felt the same way about Christian Science. I saw a need to gain an inspired interpretation of the Bible passages other Christians were taking so literally. I soon learned that some scholars estimate there to be eight times more references in the Bible to the Second Coming than the first. For instance, my study taught me that the passage our Leader choose to end every Sunday service with, specifically speaks to the

Second Coming when it says, “it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” I also learned from a Christian friend that the most published Christmas hymn in North America, Joy to the World, was written by Isaac Watts in 1719 to welcome in the Second Coming.

This same friend also shared an analogy as to what God’s prophetic Word can do for us. Have you ever watched a live football game where you are on the edge of your seat the entire time wondering if your team will pull out a big win? But compare that to how you feel if you watch a replay of that same game, and you know your team already won? Big difference. We need more of that calm and certain attitude – which is ours as the reflection of the one Mind -- that knows, despite any seeming setbacks and aggressive suggestions of failure, that the war against the flesh is already won.

I am going to be sharing slides that will act as visual aids. To begin, I have chosen to show this painting entitled “The Road to Emmaus” by Robert Zund. Perhaps we may feel a little like the disciples on that road three days after the crucifixion before they recognized the risen Christ when they said, “we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel”. We too can feel our hearts burn within us about the promises concerning Christian Science as the Second Coming of Christ when we unite with the one Mind.

### **Three Paradigms for the Nature of Reality**

Before we begin our walk through history, we need to understand some fundamentals. Ultimately, any religion must be based on truth – a truth that fully explains the nature of reality and this human experience. If God is acting in this world, then how does this happen? By unexplainable miracles? Or is His action “supremely natural”, even explainable as a science? If so, how we define science is very important.

In the broadest sense all science must be universal and repeatable by anyone. Science assumes the universe is governed by underlying fixed natural laws that can be discovered, understood and ultimately applied. Science then should be based on fixed truth that is independent of human belief, it is not a social construct. And yet the consensus definitely rules. It took about 300 years after Copernicus put forth the heliocentric theory before the church and the rest of humanity agreed it was the correct model. And the systematic application of science in the human experience can make a better world. But, the most important aspect of science that sets it apart is that it offers empirical evidence or proof. Even Jesus made this exact point when he referred to his proof or works.

*If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. (John 10:37, 38)*

As the sinless Son of God, Christ Jesus was the perfect demonstrator of Christian Science. But in the human practice of any science, delay and disappointment can at times be encountered. After all, we did not land a man on the moon in a single day. But in the same manner, we learn from any seeming failures and keep pressing on towards higher healing demonstration. And because of the individual and collective healing evidence Christian Science provides, we know it has given us the only true scientific explanation and method to not only define reality, but most importantly how to bring true health and salvation both for ourselves and for our world.

Next, we need to understand the three major worldviews humanity is considering to explain the nature of reality, and where Christian Science makes its stand. This will help us to not be influenced erroneously by all the various lies with which the carnal mind would deceptively tempt us to wander off the straight and narrow way.

*Science & Health* clearly defines the debate as to the nature of reality this way.

*The theories I combat are these: (1) that **all is matter**; (2) that **matter originates in Mind**, and is as real as Mind, possessing intelligence and life. ... One only of the following statements can be true: (1) that everything is matter; (2) that **everything is Mind**. Which one is it? (SH 269:29–31; 270:2)*

Consider first the two extremes at the end of this statement. At number 1 we have “All is matter” which in modern terms is physicalism, materialism or **naturalism**. As quantum physics has shown matter to be more and more illusive, the term naturalism is more favored today. Its philosophical assumptions first appeared in both ancient Greek and Indian writings, but its modern-day tenets are the Big Bang to explain the origin of the material universe that arose out of nothing, and Darwinian evolution to describe the development of life in matter. It avows of no creator and is fundamentally atheistic. It also says that all thought or consciousness is derived from a material brain – or that intelligence is completely *within* matter. It also only accepts a physical cause and effect. And because modern science also does not allow for any spiritual or mental causes, it has become a fundamental assumption that all science must be physical science. This is known as methodological naturalism and is the main reason why science disassociates itself from all religion which is considered to lie in the realm of supernatural causes. As humanity has continued to adopt this view, it appears most forcefully today as secular humanism. It claims that mortal men are capable of being moral and loving of their neighbor, but without a need for God. As the worldview of mainstream media, it adheres to physical science and medicine as a primary means of doing good in the world. This atheistic force on thought can be tangibly seen in the results of a Pew Research Study showing that in 2009 77% of Americans identified as Christians, but in 2019 this reduced to 65%. We as Christian Scientists must be very vigilant to guard against this subtle, atheistic influence that comes in the name of doing good, for it would try to deceptively displace our adherence to the first commandment -- to love God -- with a more human love for our neighbor.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have “all is Mind” or more loosely consciousness is the foundation of reality and matter must therefore be a derivative of consciousness. In the largest sense this is known as **idealism**, which derives its name from Plato who felt that all that is real is made up of only eternal ideas. We need to be aware that there are many others besides Christian Scientists who believe we live in an entirely mental reality. Many eastern religions, such as Buddhism, fall into this category which is why Christian Science is often grouped in with such philosophies predominated by atheism and pantheism. One of the most deceitful counterfeits to appear at the same time as Christian Science is theosophy, which is also rooted in idealism but believes in spiritualism and glorifies death in reincarnation. Christian Science is not associated with any of these human philosophies which in more socially acceptable terms can appear today as mindfulness, new age meditation or even as we will see hypnosis.

Christian Science though is a particular type of idealism when considered philosophically, but I prefer a term found in *Science & Health* to describe its unique explanation as to the nature of God and this human reality – **deific naturalism**. Christian Science accepts that all cause and effect is mental, but that mental cause is fundamentally spiritual and good – even Mind or God -- the divine omnipotence of Spirit that is “supremely natural”. The supposititious wrong mental cause – or the carnal mind – then becomes the mis-creator of matter, which is the “unconscious substratum” of this mortal mind. Jesus explained the carnal mind best this way, “there is no truth in him... he is a liar and the father of it.”

Christian Science is the only idealistic philosophy to separate out the mental causes as two different sources, evil and good, such that God, or Truth, subdues and ultimately must prove the nothingness of matter and evil. As the only correct explanation for the nature of reality, it has the one true and divinely systematic method of healing that is metaphysical and Christianly scientific accompanied now by substantial empirical proof that testifies to Jesus Christ.

But the leading paradigm for reality, that has most dominated world thought throughout human history, is the middle ground between these two and it is the assumption behind most pagan and monotheistic religions, including Judaism and Islam. This is **dualism**, where both matter and Mind are believed to be fundamental to the substance of reality. For mainstream Christianity, it is the belief that a supernatural Spirit created the material world and a material man, such that, in the words of *Science & Health*, “Mind and matter coexist and cooperate.” (SH 269:32-2) The belief that God created matter means that God could be put into matter as the physical person of Jesus, and that matter can also possess the power to heal through a drug because God has given it that power. Most Christians may believe in healing through prayer, but this is viewed as a supernatural event with a divine but unscientific cause, or that their prayers can aid the power of material medicine to heal them.

As Christian Science is most definitely Christian, we need to understand how dualism impacts Bible interpretation. The correct understanding of who Christ Jesus was has been a matter of contention ever since his appearance, and it is an important question very relevant to our appreciation that Christian Science is coincident with the Second Coming of Christ. Because

dualism mixes matter and Spirit, mainstream Christianity defines Jesus as the Christ -- an eternal, divine, spiritual and material being who is God taking the form of man in the flesh. Christian Science defines the difference between the corporeal man Jesus and his eternal divinity – but not deity -- in Christ. Mary Baker Eddy gave us this very useful analogy to better understand the difference between an individual man and the Christ. “If we say that the sun stands for God, then all his rays collectively stand for Christ, and each separate ray for men and women.” (My 344:3–5) So the sun symbolizes God as the source or cause, and Christ is the effect or, “divine manifestation of God which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error,” as defined in *Science & Health*. (SH 583:10) Thus all men collectively are included in the Christ, and there is only one Christ. Therefore, Jesus as an individual spiritual man could never be God. This makes each of us “joint-heirs with Christ” as Paul said.

Christian Science also clearly acknowledges the Bible statement that the Word was made flesh, and this analogy may help understand the correct meaning of this verse better. If I write a number 6 on a piece of paper, I did not bring the existence of that number into being by doing so. And burning or tearing up that paper would never destroy the number 6 either. That number is an eternal idea, but when written on paper it has been expressed using the flesh in a way we can understand. In this way, we see that Jesus in the flesh was the son of a virgin, or the Son of man. As the sinless Son of God, he was appointed by God to appear to humanity so we could understand our eternal sonship in Spirit. The first appearing of Christ should be viewed then, not just as the individual, immaculate appearance of Jesus, but that it should also include the establishment of the Christian church and the considerable record of healing that followed in the wake of his teaching and example.

Dualism also impacts how Christians view creation. Most evangelical Christians believe in creationism as in Genesis 2, where God made man of the dust of the earth and gave him a living soul. Other denominations, such as Catholicism, have moved to embrace an evolutionary perspective with God creating the material universe through a Big Bang but then letting it evolve life and ultimately mankind – and even within this view there are varying degrees as to how much one believes God supernaturally intervened during the evolutionary process. This is the assumption behind intelligent design. However, according to this theory the soul of man is still specially created by God at the moment of conception. Clearly, the outcome of the science and religion debate over the past 150 years has resulted in substantial disunity among Christians as to how God created man. Christian Science cancels the debate showing that both sides begin with the flawed fundamental assumption that life is in matter and has a beginning. When it is correctly understood that man has preexistence in Spirit, which is timeless and eternal Life, we see that God is the creator of a spiritual universe and an eternal spiritual man. Therefore, the mortal and finite claim of life in matter must disappear in the allness of Spirit. It is this nothingness of matter or the flesh, which every Christian Science healing proves, that is the main reason for the carnal mind’s hatred of the Christ and its resistance to healing.

Considering now these three paradigms for reality and how they relate to each other, it is a “marked coincidence” that at the same moment in history that Mary Baker Eddy was discovering Christian Science, the atheistic belief that all is matter was also fully emerging. With an atheistic evolution and material medicine, also given to the world was an entirely spiritual creation and Spiritual Science of medicine. It was a separation of the wheat from the tares, whereby dualism was split. Consider this explanation of the parable Jesus gave where he refers to the “end of this world”.

*He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:37–42)*

When you read *Science & Health* it constantly challenges you to make the choice between Spirit and matter.

*Which ought to be substance to us, — the erring, changing, and dying, the mutable and mortal, or the unerring, immutable, and immortal? (SH 278:32–3)*

To understand what brought us to this decisive moment, which we will revisit, we need to take that walk, and gain an all-encompassing perspective of the spiritual development of humanity throughout history.

### **The Dawning of Christ throughout History**

To start, let’s consider a Bible timeline and look at the events leading up to the establishment of Christianity and the first coming of Christ.

The first man to “walk with God” and fully demonstrate his immortal Christ identity in Spirit was Enoch. Soon after, mortal mind attempted the self-destruction of humanity to drown out the Christ-idea with the flood, but God promised Noah:

*I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth...the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. (Genesis 9:13, 15)*

Around 1800 BC, Abraham left his homeland in search of, “a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” It is noteworthy that the first four healings in the Bible were of barrenness, indicating the unsuccessful attempt of mortal mind to halt humanity’s conception of the Christ. Around 1500 BC Israel entered Egyptian captivity, and Moses set them free around 1280 BC leading them through the wilderness to claim the promised land. By 960 BC, the first temple was built in Jerusalem under King Solomon.

(<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-ancient-israelite-religion-2000-539-bce>)

But right after this significant event, things began to go downhill for God's chosen nation, for toward the end of Solomon's reign "his wives turned away his heart after other gods." In 930 BC, with the succession of Solomon's son Rehoboam, Israel split into a North (this was still called the kingdom of Israel) and a South (this became the kingdom of Judah which included the city of Jerusalem). In 850 BC, Elijah was living in the northern kingdom under the rule of king Ahab. Elijah berated the people of Israel for their worship of false gods. At Mount Carmel he gathered 450 prophets of Baal, "and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him." (I Kings 18:21) Soon after Elijah ascends in a whirlwind to heaven.

But the people of Israel continued to worship false gods – even practicing child sacrifice -- and this ultimately led to their downfall. In 722 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians. Judah held out until 586 BC when near the start of the Babylonian captivity, the first temple in Jerusalem is destroyed. In 516 BC the rebuilt temple is finished under the leadership of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, and in 445 BC Nehemiah rebuilds the wall. In 332 BC Alexander the Great conquered Judea. In 167 BC the Romans appear and set up idols in the temple. A Jewish rebellion rises up lead by Maccabees to reclaim the Temple and regain Jewish independence, but in 63 BC the Roman Pompey marches into Jerusalem and by 37 BC the Romans agree to set up Herod the Great as king to maintain the peace. Soon Jesus appears and proves eternal life by his resurrection in 30 AD. He predicts the destruction of the temple, which happened in 70 AD, and gave this often overlooked prophecy:

*Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.** (Matthew 21:42, 43)*

What was this new nation – a nation that would be successful in bringing forth God's kingdom on earth? There are some remarkable similarities between the kingdom of Israel and the United States. Israel had 12 tribes that were given territories in the promised land, but one tribe was given two territories – Manasseh and East Manasseh as you can see in this map. This aligns with the Biblical description that Manasseh was the only tribe to have land on both sides of the Jordan River. So, by most estimates, 13 distinct territories. It is a "marked coincidence" that at the founding of our nation in 1776 we had 13 original colonies. Then our nation continued to expand until 1959, when we admitted Hawaii as our 50<sup>th</sup> state. Fifty in the Bible signifies the year of jubilee in Leviticus and is symbolic of deliverance and restoration. It is also associated with the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Let's backtrack to what lead up to the founding of our nation. After Jesus ascended, the early church spread but at times under severe persecution. By 325, an estimated 7 million people were Christians with as many as 2 million killed for their faith. The carnal mind did its best to wipe out Christianity, but ultimately was limited to sowing seeds of false doctrine – just as Jesus foretold. According to Jesus' explanation of the parable, the Son of man sowed the good seed



of Truth into the world. But then the enemy would come and sow seeds of error that would grow alongside the good seed until the harvest. Applying this parable to Christianity, we can assume that any false doctrine would not be completely cast off until the Second Coming of Christ, when Christian healing would once again be restored to earth.

In 312, emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, uniting church and state, and in 325 he called the Council of Nicaea to resolve inconsistency in church doctrine as to the nature of Jesus. Although the debate had theological beliefs inconsistent with Christian Science on both sides, in simplest terms the outcome was that Jesus was declared God incarnate, resulting in Christian idolatry. Only with the Second Coming would this error be corrected as *Science & Health* states:

*Human philosophy has made God manlike. Christian Science makes man Godlike. The first is error; the latter is truth. (SH 269:9–11)*

Undoubtedly this doctrine only embodied how Christian thought had shifted away from Jesus' teaching that, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing," and back into dualism. Christian writings in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> and even into the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century declared disease and pain as agents of Satan and condemned the use of material remedies. But by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century some illnesses were being viewed as sent by God for discipline and material medicine was now considered to be a gift from God.

Gnosticism, by which other Christians often label Christian Science, believes that God did not create the material world. But the seed of error was sown here as well, and it cultivated too much hatred for the world and not the understanding of God's love that sent Jesus to save it. Ultimately it was labeled as heresy by the church. *Science & Health* clearly states that, "The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love." (SH 113:5–6) While these ancient writings might be of interest for side study to better understand how Christianity evolved after Jesus left, we know Christian Science is not Gnosticism. Mary Baker Eddy did not require these writings for her discovery of the Comforter, and she made it clear that our Pastor – the Holy Bible and *Science & Health* – provides us with the divinely authorized and uncontaminated Word of God fully sufficient as our guide to salvation in Spirit.

Jesus knew the world was not ready for the full revelation of salvation in Spirit. He predicted a "night" was coming "when no man can work." (John 9:4) Most of the world, including Judaism, was mired in a belief in dualism -- that a spiritual God had created matter. The deification of Jesus and use of material medicine only fit this paradigm. This was a "suffer it to be so now" condition similar to giving training wheels to a child instead of putting them on a bike they are incapable of handling. It was sufficient for humanity that Jesus' words would not pass away and that his lifework would initiate the "higher mission of the Christ-power to take away the sins of the world." (SH 150:12) Jesus laid the cornerstone of God's kingdom on earth, the four sides of which are defined in *Science & Health* as, "the Word, Christ, Christianity and divine

Science,”(SH 575:17-20) He knew that the foundation of this kingdom would only be completed with the arrival of the promised Comforter.

We know the Christian church continued to spread and ultimately divide, beginning with the Great Schism in 1054 between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox church. Later came the discovery of America in 1492 when “Columbus gave freer breath to the globe”, soon followed by another “marked coincidence” of the Protestant Reformation with the Scientific Revolution. At the same time Copernicus was busy working on his theory of a heliocentric solar system, which he later published in 1543, the “intrepid reformer” Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door just over 500 years ago in 1517. With the freer access to God’s Word that came about after the first printing of the Gutenberg Bible in 1455, Luther’s act initiated the return to “primitive Christianity” which would eventually be completed with the advent of Christian Science.

Our Leader wrote about the next major event in this way:

*When first the Pilgrims planted their feet on Plymouth Rock, frozen ritual and creed should forever have melted away in the fire of love which came down from heaven. The Pilgrims came to establish a nation in true freedom, in the rights of conscience. (Misc. Writings 176:20)*

Exactly 400 years ago in November 1620, after suffering severe religious persecution, the Pilgrims landed in America. Like Abraham, they were seeking freedom to worship their higher understanding of God. However in our case it took us only 163 years until we gained our independence as a new nation in 1783, and the world felt the alterative effect of this “immortal sentiment” of our Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” And we know true happiness is only found as man discovers his true identity in divine Science.

The separation of church and state established by our nation was foreordained to be a needed protection to the free practice of Christian Science. While our Declaration of Independence clearly recognized the freedom and equality of all men, it required our Civil War to maintain our “more perfection Union” and unlike Israel our nation did not divide into a North and South. Instead, we took a great step forward and abolished slavery in 1865 – an event which our Leader refers to as, “a prophecy of the full liberty of the sons of God as found in Christian Science.” And we know that the very next year, 1866, initiated the discovery and establishment of Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy. On the timeline shown here I have chosen to highlight various events of significance with respect to scientific progress and conflict in the world after the completion of the Mother Church in 1906. These include, our discovery of flight by the Wright Brothers in 1903, the atomic bomb in 1945, and our landing on the moon in 1969. We built the two tallest buildings in the world at the time, the Twin Towers, in 1973 only to see them destroyed in a day on September 11, 2001. Christianity today claims over 2.4 billion adherents, this is 29% of the world population and the largest of any denomination. And we

can rejoice that Christian Science has spread with members in over 130 countries and churches in more than 70 countries.

Let us again consider this unique moment in history when Christian Science appeared. Both Charles Darwin and Mary Baker Eddy had Christian origins. Eddy became a member of the Congregational church, which had Puritan and pilgrim roots. Darwin was raised in a Unitarian household. You may know that Unitarianism, like Christian Science, denies the deity of Jesus as God incarnate. If we look at the tree of the Christian church both the Unitarian and Congregational faiths came directly out of the Reformation. Darwin had early ambitions to enter the clergy, but it's no surprise that by the end of his life he considered himself an agnostic. Mary Baker Eddy later wrote of his theory in this way, "Evolution describes the gradations of human belief, but it does not acknowledge the method of divine Mind, nor see that material methods are impossible in divine Science and that all Science is of God, not of man." (SH 551:12) This belief of life only in matter and the "survival of the fittest" applied to material life led to violent conflict between nations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century -- including a justification to kill off perceived lesser races. This was a perversion of the correct metaphysical law that the eternal spiritual idea will ultimately out-survive all else as the only true creation. Jesus foretold, in Matthew Chapter 24, of such a time of tribulation which the Second Coming would bring to humanity. Our Leader put it this way when she wrote:

*Mortal error will vanish in a moral chemicalization. This mental fermentation has begun, and will continue until all errors of belief yield to understanding. (SH 96:21–23)*

In 1866, after her instantaneous healing from paralysis and severe injury three days after a fall on an icy sidewalk, Mary Baker Eddy began an intensive study and search of the Scriptures. She experienced a profound sense of God's power to cure every ill when turning to an account of one of Jesus' healings in the Bible, and wanted to understand how this power of the Holy Spirit had healed her. Later that year, she began to write down her spiritual interpretations of Genesis and we can see that even at this time she herself had not made the shift out of Christian dualism. Here was her metaphysical exegesis of Genesis 1 verse 2:

*And the world of matter – which was the universal idea was then in solution no identities as yet were formed for intelligence had not yet embraced belief in matter and matter had no intelligence of its own darkness was upon it until the principle of Wisdom gave intelligence to matter. (In My True Light and Life, Mary Baker Eddy Collections, p. 177)*

However, by the time she wrote "Questions and Answers in Moral Science" in 1870 she made this statement, "... matter as substance is not the idea of God." (In My True Light and Life, Mary Baker Eddy Collections, p. 214) At this time her shift to deific naturalism was clearly being made, if not fully solidified by the time she wrote the first version of the scientific statement of being in the *Science of Man* in 1876 stating, "all is mind and there is no matter." (The Development of "The Scientific Statement of Being", an article on

[www.marybakereddylibrary.org](http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org)) This was consistent with her assertion that, “Mind, not matter, must have been the first medicine.” (SH 143:27)

Just prior to her discovery, in the 1850s and 60s, the germ theory of disease – considered to be the most powerful idea in the history of medicine – was born, and medicine as a physical science was born with it. Darwin published *On the Origin of the Species* in 1859 followed by *The Descent of Man* in 1871. Now man was stated scientifically to be the product of naturalistic, material evolution. And so, at one moment in history the true idea – the Spiritual Science of creation along with a spiritual medicine – was revealed and so was the false -- a material science of creation along with a material medicine.

Consider this very familiar phrase from our textbook, “it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing...” (SH 496:15–17) Also consider this significant statement our Leader makes.

*Science and Health makes it plain to all Christian Scientists that the manhood and womanhood of God have already been revealed in a degree through Christ Jesus and Christian Science, His two witnesses. (My 346:29–2)*

These are God’s witnesses on earth during the first and Second Coming of Christ. This dual nature of the spiritual idea is also clearly stated in the trinity given in the second tenet: “We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.” (SH 497:5)

At the same time that the spiritual idea is revealed to human consciousness in Christian Science – declaring man’s true identity in Spirit and restoring to him the healing power of divine Mind – the materialistic counterfeit to the spiritual idea also rose up. This counterfeit is the Wicked to be revealed as Paul states in this verse from II Thessalonians associated with the Second Coming.

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness ...And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (II Thessalonians 2:8–11)*

Evangelicals refer to the unholy trinity as Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet – where the latter two are revealed and rule over earth during the time of the Second Coming. The same unholy trinity in *Science & Health* terms would be animal magnetism, material medicine and physical science. The word wicked is also translated in the New King James Version as the “lawless one”, or that which is completely contrary to the action of divine Principle. The opposite of the spiritual idea that is most wicked attempts to usurp God’s power in “heaven above”. It claims an atheistic understanding of life in matter through false knowledge of the universe, or physical science. Consider also how physical science would falsely prophecy that

the pandemic is only going to get worse, or that climate change is slowly killing our planet. As the opposite of the Holy Spirit, it would deceive mankind and claim a holiness of matter instead of Spirit. This atheistic influence is at the core of secular humanism today, which promulgates the high goal of a human holiness through love of our fellow mortals.

The antichrist attempts to usurp the power of the Christ in the form of material medicine and hygiene to be the manifestation of mortal mind which tries to come to the flesh and heal it through what *Science & Health* describes as, “awful and oppressive... false theories”. The antichrist deceives humanity – even those we respect with the right motive to heal mankind – for it is in the words of our Leader, “the diabolism of suppositional evil at work in the name of good,” and thus a, “lie of the highest degree of nothingness”. (Mis. 334:18) And it has led to the Babylonian captivity of the children of Israel today through an unnatural reliance on material medicine and hygiene because these methods have been proven by so-called science. As *Science & Health* says, “We know that if they understood the Science of Mind-healing, and were in possession of the enlarged power it confers to benefit the race physically and spiritually, they would rejoice with us.” (SH151:9–13) But God has made a promise to humanity, the slavery must cease. Both Paul’s words and the book of Revelation tell us that the Second Coming of Christ must annihilate this wicked counterfeit to the spiritual idea.

Consider also this characteristic of Christian Science brought out in the definition of, “**Elias**. ...spiritual evidence opposed to material sense; **Christian Science**... “**Elias truly shall first come and restore all things.**” (Matthew xvii. 11)” (SH 585:9–14) Just as Elijah had insisted, “How much longer will you try to have things both ways? If the LORD is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!”, with dualism now split the world was given a distinct choice as to what to accept as real. (I Kings 18:21, CEV) Will you choose the evidence of the false prophet, or physical science, as material evidence opposed to spiritual sense, or will you choose the spiritual evidence of Christian Science? This is a choice we are still making every moment. Will you let matter or Spirit define your identity and be the source of your health? The splitting of dualism may have enabled the antichrist and false prophet to rise up and be unloosed in order that the material lie be uncovered and ultimately destroyed by Truth. But at the same time, the healing Christ was restored to earth through Christian Science to do its meek but effective work of saving the world. The church Jesus founded on Christian healing was reinstated on earth and God’s temple was rebuilt with a divine impetus -- evident by the fact that at the beginning of the 20th century Christian Science churches were opening around the world at the rate of one a week.

This establishment of Christian Science also corresponds to an event other Christians refer to as the “rapture”, when Christ returns only to be seen by his true believers so that the church is ‘caught up’ to meet the “Lord in the air” as described in I Thessalonians 4:17. The more literal interpretation is that all believers will be taken up with Christ into heaven -- with a new sinless and eternal human body -- to be removed from having to experience the tribulation when God’s wrath will be let loose on earth. Instead, Christian Science reveals our spiritual identity

found forever in heaven, sinless and eternal, and this understanding leads us to a sure “safety in divine Science” no matter the trials to come.

From a more worldly perspective, we see that two competing scientific communities based in polarizing paradigms to explain reality were established at this moment in history. So, what was to happen next? Even our Leader said that until she, “learned the vastness of Christian Science, the fixedness of mortal illusions, and the human hatred of Truth, she cherished sanguine hopes that Christian Science would meet with immediate and universal acceptance.” (SH 330:3) We can answer this question two ways. We’ve already seen some of what prophecy says, so let’s consider this question from a more scientific viewpoint.

### **A Scientific Revolution?**

In 1962, Thomas Kuhn published one of the most influential books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the philosophy of science entitled *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Instead of seeing the evolution of science only as a slow and incremental method, he saw discontinuities that came with key scientific discoveries. These initiated revolutionary phases so that once a scientific paradigm has achieved a level of undisputed consensus it persists in a period of problem solving, or normal science. But as that scientific community begins to build anomalous evidence of its own, and if there is another competing paradigm with its own irrefutable body of evidence that accounts for the anomalies, then at some point a crisis is reached and it becomes clear that a shift to the new paradigm must take place. Kuhn called this a paradigm shift -- the now well-known phrase which means a fundamental change in basic assumptions and practices.

Are we in the midst of a scientific revolution being compelled by the healing work or leaven of Christian Science? Our Leader says:

*We are in the midst of a revolution; physics are yielding slowly to metaphysics; mortal mind rebels at its own boundaries; weary of matter, it would catch the meaning of Spirit. (Christian Healing, 11:6–9)*

Our Leader identified three modes of thought as to where this revolution would take place, -- not just science but also theology and medicine. This Venn diagram shows how these three modes of thought can overlap in many ways. Jesus already proved – through his truly scientific demonstrations of feeding the multitudes, walking on the water and stilling the wind and waves -- that he was the most scientific man to ever walk the earth. Clearly his example -- as God’s anointed Messiah with the ability to heal, “every sickness and every disease among the people” -- stands as the pinnacle of proof at the intersection of all three, and so does Christian Science as the metaphysical method behind Jesus’ works and our healing record today.

Let’s consider first the leavening of thought taking place in the sciences -- specifically in physics. For over 80 years quantum physics has been testing the limits of matter being the substance of reality. Richard Feynman was fond of saying that all of quantum mechanics can be gleaned from

carefully thinking through the implications of the double slit experiment. When it was first performed with electrons in 1927, the wave-particle dualistic nature of matter was revealed. As shown in the diagram, electrons are fired through two slits. But the electrons do not behave like particles, if they did they would form two bands on the measurement screen. Instead, the electrons – even if fired individually one at a time -- form an interference pattern, indicating that each electron acts like a wave of uncertainty. But what is even more interesting, is if the experiment is repeated and a measurement device is used to observe which slit the electron goes through, the interference pattern disappears into just two bands indicating the electrons act like particles. This implies that the observer, or consciousness, collapses the wave function. In other words, matter goes from being a wave of uncertainty to a solid-acting particle simply by the act of observing – or knowledge obtained through material sense. Over the years double slit experiments have been repeated to test the limitations of matter. The most recent experiment in 2019 obtained the same results, but instead of using electrons they used molecules containing 2,000 atoms.

There are other studies that also show that consciousness is an active participant in the physical world. In the late 1990s a research team based out of Princeton University hypothesized that a collective consciousness is fundamental to reality. They felt that this “global consciousness” would impact the randomness taking place at the quantum level in random event generators – electronic devices that should produce a 50/50 series of random outputs. So, during a significantly disastrous world event they believed this randomness would be skewed as a result of the focus of thought on the negative news. They set up a network of these generators at 40 sites around the world to test their hypothesis. As shown in the graph, their 15 year study provided interesting results. By 2013 they had logged over 450 such global events reaching a correlation far surpassing 99.9% certainty of their hypothesis in a “global consciousness”. The most significant event recorded was 9-11, with data showing a definite skewness in the output after the collapse of the second tower. Because the hypothesis of this study goes against the prevailing paradigm, it has not received much attention. However, experiments that continue to prove quantum entanglement, or Einstein’s “spooky action at a distance” again and again, do garner much attention and speculation continues as to the implications of these results. Christian Scientist astrophysicist Dr. Laurance Doyle has said, “In the lingo of quantum, ‘local reality’ has been experimentally disproven. In other words, there is no objective matter with time running forward.” (personal communication)

The metaphysical implications of quantum physics tell us to reject both naturalism and dualism, because matter is not an observer independent reality. This is not a new hypothesis, for even Max Planck almost 90 years ago said, “I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness,” which clearly aligns with idealism. A May 2016 article published in the journal *Communicative and Integrative Biology* said, “The utility of this shift in stance is the recognition of areas for scientific study that remain outside the currently acceptable bounds of scientific discourse, important areas such as biofields... and non-Western methods of health and healing.”

Consider next the field of medicine. The placebo effect is unexplainable within the paradigm of only physical causes, and yet, just as Mary Baker Eddy did in her pursuit of truth before her discovery of Christian Science, medical studies keep testing the effect and the evidence continues to build that drugs are becoming less and less effective. Studies show that injected placebos are more effective than a pill, and that people can even get addicted to placebos and experience withdrawal. One drug study for migraine pain relief in 2014 revealed that the variation in labeling either a pill as a placebo or drug correctly or incorrectly showed that the placebo effect – or faith in the drug – accounted for more than 50% of the drug effect. (“Altered Placebo and Drug Labeling Changes the Outcome of Episodic Migraine Attacks” *Science Translational Medicine*, Jan. 2014) There are even studies showing that placebo or ‘sham’ surgery can be just as effective if not more so. For instance, the healing effect on patients receiving a certain kind of knee surgery were no better than patients who went through the ritual of ‘sham’ surgery – just receiving a cut on their knee to think they had received the surgery. (“Arthroscopic Partial Meniscectomy versus Sham Surgery for a Degenerative Meniscal Tear”, *New England J. Med.*, Dec. 2013)

And to go even further, just last year *New Scientist* published a cover article entitled “The healing power of your mind” showing that hypnosis is “finally being taken seriously by modern medicine”, especially for pain relief. The article pointed out that when, “people undergo the same procedure labeled either hypnosis, relaxation or suggestion, it works better when called Hypnosis.” It even had a separate blurb entitled, “How to hypnotize yourself”. (*New Scientist*, Nov. 2019) And just last month a *Scientific American* article said, “Long seen as a fringe topic, hypnosis has become surprisingly well established in the cognitive sciences today as a measurable, repeatable phenomenon...Hypnotizability and expectancies relate very much to the placebo effect.” The use of the words “measurable” and “repeatable” imply that hypnotism is now being considered scientific. (“Hypnosis Experts Cast Doubt on Famous Psychological Experiments”, [www.scientificamerican.com](http://www.scientificamerican.com), October 21, 2020) It is comforting to know that Christian Science is here, and that our prayers are effective to, “save those from Satan’s power when they are gone astray” – to rephrase the Christmas carol`.

Another area of interest is the study of near-death experiences or NDEs. In 1998, Dr. Jeffrey Long established a research foundation that allowed individuals to voluntarily report their NDE through a rigorous online questionnaire. He has published the results in his book “Evidence of the Afterlife”, and over 4,700 experiences have now been recorded in over 23 languages. It is the largest study ever conducted. NDEs commonly include out-of-body experiences, or “in a body unseen” by others, and being witness to events they could not have any knowledge of, vision by those blind who still come back blind, encountering deceased loved ones, and remarkable similarities in experiences across cultures including a profound feeling of unconditional love. Dr. Long has concluded, “There is currently more scientific evidence to the reality of near-death experience (NDE) than there is for how to effectively treat certain forms of cancer.”



One famous case you may already know of is that reported by neuroscientist Dr. Eben Alexander, who before his NDE in 2008 strongly believed that the material brain creates consciousness. His scientific approach to analyze what had happened during his experience ultimately led him to make a dramatic paradigm shift. He told Ingrid Peshke in an interview published in the February 2014 *Christian Science Journal*, "Consciousness is the thing that exists. It is the support, the basis on which all the universe is based." He also wrote in his book *Proof of Heaven*, "[My story breaks] the back of the last efforts of reductive science to tell the world that the material realm is all that exists, and that consciousness, or spirit – yours and mine – is not the great and central mystery of the universe. I'm living proof."

We understand of course that all this evidence is consistent with Christian Science, specifically where *Science & Health* states, "In the illusion of death, mortals wake to the knowledge of two facts: (1) that they are not dead; (2) that they have but passed the portals of a new belief." (SH 251:8-11) But we also know that in Christian Science we never accept death or the belief in any life apart from God either here or hereafter. We do not adhere to the reality of other planes of mortal existence. Our true life is found forever in the eternal and infinite realm of Spirit, coexistent with God, and Jesus gave us the example that we are not to wait to find our salvation in some time or place hereafter, but rather we are to demonstrate eternal Life here and now – for ourselves and others.

Moving into the area of theology, but with the same topic of life after death, it is interesting to see the progress made in academia as to how Jesus is perceived. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is a historical event at the intersection of the fields of religion, history and philosophy. Dr. Gary Habermas, a professor of Apologetics and Philosophy at Liberty University, has developed what is known as the minimal facts method. His arguments showing that the resurrection event is the most probable conclusion using normal historical methods has changed the academically accepted view. Forty years ago, only Christians believed in the historicity of the event. Today the majority of scholars -- almost 2/3, skeptics among them -- believe it happened. To quote Dr. Habermas: "Bodily resurrection is the predominant view in the academy."

But Christian Science, by and far, is leading the way for a scientific – even spiritual -- revolution with its own body of archived and verified healing evidence now numbering over 83,000 testimonies. As you and I know, these are only the tip of the iceberg as to the amount of healing that has been accomplished through Christian Science. These are the repeatable, empirical results obtained by our scientific community of Christian healers. Healing is explained as a bodily improvement due to a change in human consciousness through Christ, Truth. I read a comment recently by a medical doctor despondently realizing that death is inevitable for every patient, his work was only to delay it. For us it is the exact opposite. Every Christian Science healing is the demonstration of eternal Life.

It is always important for us to consider the strength of our healing record, which can be readily seen in a study entitled "An Empirical Analysis of Medical Evidence in Christian Science

Testimonies of Healing 1969-1988” published by The Mother Church. Results showed that over 80% of the 7,154 testimonies published in that twenty-year span included bodily disorders. Of these 2,337 (or 33%) involved healings of medically diagnosed conditions. Many conditions were serious including cancer, leukemia, 13 of epilepsy and 6 of multiple sclerosis. There were 599 cases of broken bones, and in at least 11 instances the healing took one day or less. X-ray evidence was offered in some cases that showed a break in one to no break the second time taken in only the span of a few hours. These medically verified results, especially the broken bones cases, have no explanation under the paradigm of physical cause and effect.

Pressure from the success of Christian Science in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century impelled new healing movements, such as Pentecostalism, within Christianity. In 2011 Dr. Craig Keener, a Professor of the New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, published a book entitled *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*. His two-volume book assembled modern Christian evidence for miracles, largely a return to physical health without medical intervention, from around the world (although as a dualist he purposefully choose not to include Christian Science healing evidence as his thesis was that miracles are supernatural events). He concluded that “hundreds of millions of people today claim to have experienced miracles.” Though the evidence is by and far more anecdotal in nature, the book presents healing accounts throughout the world, but with a particular focus on Africa and the US. Examples include: A Baptist preacher told he could never speak again due to damage to his vocal cords, had his speech fully restored. A patient dying after the surgical removal of his stomach restored to health with the “formation of a new stomach.” And the list goes on. The book is 1,248 pages long, a monumental study of the evidence for past and modern-day Christian miracles. This evidence clearly aligns with our Leader’s prophetic words:

*If the lives of Christian Scientists attest their fidelity to Truth, I predict that in the twentieth century every Christian church in our land, and a few in far-off lands, will approximate the understanding of Christian Science sufficiently to heal the sick in his name. Christ will give to Christianity his new name, and Christendom will be classified as Christian Scientists. (Pulpit and Press 22:9)*

### **Fulfillment of Prophecy**

Undoubtedly, Mary Baker Eddy saw that the leaven she placed in the “three modes of mortal thought”, as the revelator of Christian Science, would impel a spiritual revolution towards the day, she wrote of, when “Christ, God's idea, will eventually rule all nations and peoples — imperatively, absolutely, finally — with divine Science.” (SH 565:16–18) This “millennium” is an indispensable human footstep that must occur as a prerequisite to the divine demand that all matter must disappear before the supremacy of Spirit.

The Second Coming is associated with the term “end times”. But the “end of error” is what Christian Scientists welcome in. This spiritually scientific revolution will usher in the end to the

general world belief of the reality of matter – that is has the power to heal or give life, or that it has intelligence or substance of any kind. In Miscellany our Leader wrote:

*The millennium is a state and stage of mental advancement, going on since ever time was. Its impetus, accelerated by the advent of Christian Science, is marked, and will increase till all men shall know Him (divine Love) from the least to the greatest, and one God and the brotherhood of man shall be known and acknowledged throughout the earth. (My 239:27)*

Mary Baker Eddy also wrote of “divine metaphysics” as “Truth with us, God ‘manifest in the flesh’ by proof” and that “this Bethlehem star looks down upon the long night of materialism” (My p. 109-10). Would not then these three modes of thought – Science, Theology and Medicine – be the three Wisemen of the Second Coming of Christ, being led (quote) “to behold and to follow the daystar of divine Science, lighting the way to eternal harmony”? (SH vii:10) She also wrote in Miscellaneous Writings:

*As the Wisemen grew in the understanding of Christ, the spiritual idea, it grew in favor with them. Thus it will continue, as it shall become understood, until man be found in the actual likeness of his Maker. (Misc. Writ. 164:20–23)*

As we have seen, to better understand how Christian Science is accomplishing its divinely appointed mission, it is important to understand both what the Bible says about the Second Coming and what our Leader envisioned for us. There is a right balance in appreciating the entirely metaphysical significance of prophetic Bible verses as well as understanding their “special suggestiveness” to how God’s plan of redemption for humanity has unfolded and will continue to unfold.

Truth is urging itself upon mortals. And while the world may be largely ignorant of God’s power unto salvation and world peace, we are not. It is a privilege to be a Christian Scientist, but it is also a duty. First of all, it is a duty to God. To worship Spirit with all our heart, soul and mind. It is our duty to Soul to manifest the unique spiritual idea Mind made us to be and do our own part, to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. It is a duty to our Leader to impress upon mankind the healing power of Christian Science as proof that she was the revelator to our age – that Mary’s pure conception of the Christ man through the Holy Spirit revealed to us in *Science & Health* was indeed the arrival of the Second Coming. And it is a duty to mankind in the greatest expression of love for our brother that we could ever offer -- even to lay down our human sense of life for our eternal identity in Spirit. We have the final revelation of Truth. Through self-immolation we purify our consciousness making it a clearer transparency for the healing light the world so needs right now. As we bring in the millennium – the reign of Christ -- first in us, the world will know that Immanuel – God with us -- has indeed come again to earth.

The November 1884 *Christian Science Journal* published these words by Mary Baker Eddy:

*The element of Christian healing has almost been lost to the world for 1800 years, but we are still the sons of God and live and move and have our being in Him, and by faith we are able to*

*claim our inheritance; and when this attribute of Christ shall be once again in the hearts of his followers, then in deed and in truth has the Second Coming of Christ been fulfilled.*

Are we actively praying that all of humanity will awake, sooner rather than later, to their spiritual sonship in divine Science? Are we gratefully acknowledging that every healing is disproving the antichrist of material medicine and thereby displacing physical science with Christian Science? Are we refusing to be erroneously influenced by the false prophets of our day predicting more death and disease, and instead standing firm on the spiritual evidence and promises of Spirit -- trusting with all our heart that God's omnipotent healing love is embracing all of humanity? Is not infinite Love enough to forgive and destroy all sin?

If we feel uncertain as to how God will complete His promised plan for the "reign of the Prince of Peace", we can rest secure that if there is a human need for a spiritual revolution of thought divine Love will meet it. We know the covenant divine Love has made with His chosen people through God's prophetic Word. And because it is divine Mind doing it, with whom nothing is impossible, this freedom for mankind from the slavery of materialism will be by the gentle but omnipotent impetus of divine Love. Adopting our Leader's words for this moment, "We, today, in this class-room, are enough to convert the world if we are of one Mind; for then the whole world will feel the influence of this Mind." (Misc. Writ. p. 279:15–29)

Our role in the Second Coming is to claim our inheritance as the sinless sons of God, who like Jesus have been given "power over all flesh". To do this we need to be active healers, living our Leader's daily request that we "rule out all sin". Affirming and proving, from the little victories over sinful tendencies to the big physical healings, that Christian Science heals with divine certainty and is the only true Science that saves mankind. Our Leader said the revelation of Christian Science "consists of two parts": the discovery and the proof. The healing proof that validates Christian Science as the only true, curative Science of God is our part in fulfilling the Second Coming. And while the world may resist this proof, never is there more of an opportunity for spiritual growth, both individually and collectively, than in times of trial.

"Blessed are the persecuted", so we are indeed blessed. Just as Jesus was "despised and rejected of men", so too has been God's second witness in Christian Science. But we also have the same heart of Love that allows us to say with our Savior, "Father, Mother forgive them, for they know not what they do." And while the Goliath of materialism may be falsely crowning itself ruler over all the earth – enslaving our brother in fear during this pandemic – we know eternal Truth has never given the material lie such authority. God promised Noah that the flood would never again prevail, and so the earth is swallowing up that flood the dragon is pouring forth and the spiritual idea in Christian Science must be understood by all men. *Science & Health* says, "the material lie made war on the spiritual idea; but this only impelled the idea to rise to the zenith of demonstration." (SH 565:23) Consider these words from a Journal article by Nathan Talbot entitled "What Mrs. Eddy envisioned for us" (*Christian Science Journal*, April 1980).

*We are not living at a time of defeat or uncertainty. We are living in an age of prophetic triumph—a time when there is every reason to have powerful spiritual conviction. But it's not enough to simply live in an age of triumph. The miracle of spiritual vision is essential to help us fully appreciate the possibilities of our times. We need to cultivate an expectancy of what our Leader foresaw: the demonstration of perfection—full proof that man is God's likeness.*

We are the Christ, man in God's likeness, "the divine manifestation of God". And though we know we are not of the flesh, divine Love has sent us – our unique manifestation as the sons and daughters of God – "to the flesh", to meet the human need for extraordinary healing proof at this moment in time and eternity. To do what? To "destroy incarnate error". Our role in this indispensable eradication of evil may be small or large, but either way it is part of the greater works Jesus promised we would do. Those that have gone before us have done their part, and the time is now to do ours. God has chosen us and bestowed upon us through Christian Science the divine authority to speak to every form of error with the voice of Truth and prove its nothingness, so that we will glorify God's allness. We are the healing light of perfect Soul. And God's truth in our prayers does not return unto Him void, but must accomplish all the healing divine Love has willed us to do. Hear these rousing words from our Leader found in Prose Works.

*Never was there a more solemn and imperious call than God makes to us all, right here, for fervent devotion and an absolute consecration to the greatest and holiest of all causes. The hour is come. The great battle of Armageddon is upon us... Will you give yourselves wholly and irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error, sin, disease, and death? (Misc. Writ. 177:1–5, 15)*

*Glorious things are spoken of you in His Word. Ye are a chosen people, whose God is — what? Even All. May mercy and truth go before you: may the lamp of your life continually be full of oil, and you be wedded to the spiritual idea, Christ; then will you heal, and teach, and preach, on the ascending scale of everlasting Life and Love. (Misc. Writ. p. 151:22)*

*God is blessing you, my beloved students and brethren. Press on towards the high calling whereunto divine Love has called us and is fast fulfilling the promises. (My 201:1)*

*Thus it is we walk here below, and wait for the full appearing of Christ till the long night is past and the morning dawns on eternal day. ('00 7:28-30)*

That "long night" of materialism is coming to an end. But it has been a "holy night" during which the stars of every Christian Science healing have brightly shined, and Christian Science teachers as the shepherds of our day have kept watch over their flocks. "The darkest hour precedes the dawn." This night must be followed by the effulgence of God's day. This new day is dawning and will be a glorious, morning light.

Christian Science: The Second Coming of Christ

These are references from the presentation in the order used in the talk for Morning Light by Amy Lang

*Note: SH = Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy*

Mark 15:34

John 16:33

SH 55:21-22

SH 230:6-8

My 181:27

Mis 370:12

Revelation 12:1-17

I John 3:2

Luke 24:21

SH xi:9

John 10:37, 38

SH 269:29

SH 44:20

SH 409:16–19

John 8:44

SH 269:32-2

My 344:1

Romans 8:16, 17

<https://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/28/pope-francis-comments-on-evolution-and-the-catholic-church>

SH 345:26

Matthew 13:37–42

SH 278:32–3

Genesis 5:22–24

Genesis 9:13, 15

Hebrews 11:8–10

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/timeline-of-ancient-israelite-religion-2000-539-bce>

I Kings 12

I Kings 18:21

II Kings Chapters 15 and 16

II Kings 25

Matthew 21:42, 43

SH 340:15

SH 269:9–11

John 6:63

Tertullian (155- 240 AD) held that disease and pain were agents of Satan and Tatian (120-180 AD) condemned the use of material remedies as a use of the bad for a healing good. Origen (184 -253), however, suggested that a man would choose between prayer and medicine, and since not all would choose prayer medicine was benefit to mankind.

Morton Kelsey, "Healing & Christianity" presents the spiritual healing record within the Christian church into the 4th century A.D

"Basil [329-379 AD] argued that God gave medicine, as he did other arts, to help mankind and that Christians should be grateful for the remedies that medicine provided because they were gifts from God." Amanda Porterfield, "Healing in the History of Christianity", p.51

SH 113:5–6

Explanatory Note in the Christian Science Quarterly

SH 497:3

John 9:4

Matthew 3:13–15

SH 150:12

Mark 12:10, 11

SH 575:17-20

SH 120:30

Hea 1:20–11

Man 17:8

Mis 176:14

SH 161:11

No 44:18

Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

Peo 10:26

SH 551:12

No 25:9

Matthew 24:21

SH 96:21–23

Ret 24:22

In My True Light and Life, Mary Baker Eddy Collections, p. 177 and p. 214

The Development of "The Scientific Statement of Being", an article on [www.marybakereddylibrary.org](http://www.marybakereddylibrary.org)

SH 143:27

SH 496:15–17

My 346:27–5

SH 497:5

II Thessalonians 2:8–11 (KJV and NKJV)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/unholy-trinity.html>

Revelation 13

Revelation 16:13

Exodus 20:3, 4

SH 146:13–14

SH 167:11–14

SH 457:24

SH 483:1–4

SH 185:6

SH 484:6–27

SH 151:8

Mis 334:13–21

SH 227:3–29

Revelation 19:20



SH 585:9–14

I Kings 18:21, CEV

Statistic on churches opening at rate of one a week was stated in video “Mary Baker Eddy – A Heart in Protest” available here: <https://www.christianscience.com/additional-resources/committee-on-publication/circle-of-faith/mary-baker-eddy-a-heart-in-protest>

Rapture reference: <https://www.moodybible.org/beliefs/positional-statements/second-coming/>

I Thessalonians 4:17

SH 330:3

“The Structure of Scientific Revolutions” by Thomas Kuhn

Hea 11:6–9

SH 118:13

SH 313:23–26

SH 312:31

Mis 161:18

SH 333:3

Matthew 9:35

SH 110:25

Quantum Physics references

Short video explaining double split experiment in more detail

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1YqgPAzho>

New Experiments Show Consciousness Affects Matter, Dean Radin, PhD (mental effects measured on double slit experiments) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRSBaq3vAeY>

<https://www.photonics.com/Articles/Light from Ancient Quasars Helps Confirm Quantum/a63828>

15 min Presentation by Dr. Roger Nelson on Global Consciousness Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63OX4ESrPMY>

Coherent Consciousness and Reduced Randomness: Correlations on September 11, 2001

<http://noosphere.princeton.edu/papers/jseNelson.pdf>

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