



Handouts for Week of December 25, 2023- "Christian Science"

Photos & Texts are not copyrighted by CS Bible Insights, LLC
They come from a variety of sources. These Handouts are used for educational purpose only.
www.csbibleinsights.com



<https://journal.christianscience.com/shared/view/1oikqcxvjjw?s=copylink>

THE OFFICE OF THE ANGEL

BLANCHE HERSEY HOGUE

From the [May 1937 issue](#) of *The Christian Science Journal*

Throughout both the Old and the New Testament are found many incidents of angelic messages coming to those who sought God. These lovely records become understandable to the student of Christian Science when he accepts as true the definition of "angels" in the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures." There Mrs. Eddy writes on [page 581](#): "Angels. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality."

God's knowledge of man and man's reflection of God constitute the forever-living unity between God and man. Through individual consciousness, through mental recognition and understanding, true acquaintance with God comes to men. Christian Science reveals God to be divine Mind, boundless, limitless, and purely good, knowing nothing less than infinite perfection. By His very

nature and action as divine Mind, God imparts His own perfect qualities of spiritual being to His idea, man. Divine Mind maintains His creation through cherishing, perpetuating it in Mind; and the creation, spiritual man and the universe, receives that maintenance through reflecting and expressing God. Therefore, "God's thoughts passing to man," in this divine relationship, are indeed angels of impartation, guiding, supporting, enlightening even the present sense of mortal existence with spiritual power and peace.

Mrs. Eddy uses the word "idea" in two distinct ways. "Idea" is her term for God's creation. God being infinite Mind, His creation is Mind's idea. Man himself is God's idea. Again we find in her writings the word "idea" used in such statements as that on [page 307](#) of "Miscellaneous Writings," "God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies." In the latter sense, God's direct impartation of spiritual ideas to the human consciousness is defined, and the individual's receptivity to the inflowing of divine Mind is made clear.

Christian Science distinguishes, as has no other religious teaching since the days of Christ Jesus, between the mortal sense of man, which appears to the physical senses, and immortal man, who is revealed through spiritual understanding. The former is an illusive counterfeit of the real man, a supposed product of false material belief, which in no way presents the truth of creation. The latter is man as God knows him in His own likeness and image, spiritual and perfect, immortal in nature, coexistent with God as His reflection. This real man is one with the divine Mind, in which he abides as idea. The Christian Science textbook declares of man (p. 475): "He is not physique. He is the compound idea of God, including all right ideas."

He who accepts the revelation brought to the world by Christian Science sees that his entire work lies in keeping clear this distinction between the mortal and the immortal. That which is mortal is perishable, he learns; that which is immortal expresses God, and is as good and eternally imperishable as is God Himself. He finds his true being in this immortality, and begins to reject mentally those trials, tendencies, and temptations which he had believed to be part of his mortal selfhood. Thus the angel of spiritual understanding becomes a correcting angel, displacing the human sense of good and evil by a right demonstration of pure spiritual good—a good that is all-healing, all-saving, invincible.

Correction, therefore, is an office of the angel. The beginner in Christian Science is taught in his very first efforts to spiritualize his thought and experience, to deny evil as power or reality, and to cling to divine good as the substance and truth of creation. He begins to watch his own thinking, challenging its nature and purpose; and he must continue to watch it with honesty and courage. His progress is determined by his departure from mortal beliefs and practices, by his adoption of spiritual apprehension and demonstration. And that departure from the unreal to the real can be achieved in no other place than in the secret springs of his own inmost thinking. The way in which he regards his own impulses, looks at the actions of others, and reacts to apparently external happenings, tells the story of his fidelity to the angel of correction. Nowhere can he accord to any phase of error a place in God's universe.

Contrasting the imperfections of mortals with the logical perfection of God's likeness, we see that the angel of spiritual understanding could do no less than to reverse all that is mortal in order to bring to light the perfect and the immortal. This reversal goes on in the

realm of human thought. In the secret chambers of the individual mentality there is work to be done; there is a change to be effected. Mortality is to be put off; immortality is to be put on. In Truth's penetration of human consciousness, spiritual understanding does indeed become a correcting angel, making straight, clean paths for thought to walk in.

A mistake is never more than a wrong sense of something true and right. However disastrous the mistake, the remedy lies in finding the truth about which the false sense has been mistaken. Truth appearing, explains away every lie about itself, refutes everything that would contradict its own verity and actuality. Logically, there is a correcting fact for every mistake, a saving angel of true understanding for every false belief. And Christian Science, revealing the Christ, Truth, the spiritual facts concerning God and man and the universe, brings the correcting and saving angel to human consciousness, to destroy the sum total of mortal woe.

The word "counteracting" in the definition of "angels" quoted from the Christian Science textbook, defines clearly the office of angels. Completely, then, covering the full scale of material sense, the angel messages of purity and goodness, right ideas of being, emanate from divine Mind and are here to counteract, for him who entertains these angels, all untrue beliefs about being. For every falsity there is a saving truth; for every mistake, a counteracting healing fact. We read in the Christian Science textbook (p. 43), "The divine must overcome the human at every point." And it is point by point, thought by thought, deed by deed, that the counteracting angel of Truth, understood, performs its holy office and saves one from the unhappy mistakes of sin, sickness, and death.

Does one believe himself to be a sinner, a sick person, a human weakling? Just where these viewpoints apparently prevail, there exists the right understanding of man, in divine Mind, to bring angelic correction to this erroneous estimate of man.

Comprehending the truth of being, we see man to be God's faithful likeness, as good, as pure, as sinless, and as superior to pain and penalty as is God, whom he reflects. Correction, yes; substitution of true understanding for untrue speculation and false education; exchange of wrong for right in every mental outlook; purity and selflessness of motive, taking the place of impurity and greed. This is the work the Christian Scientist undertakes when he entertains the angel of God's presence, the angel of spiritual activity, the angel of man's true integrity. To the warped and darkened field of human thought comes a mighty correction when spiritual ideas counteract the claims of materiality. It is thus that spiritual activity establishes the blessing of Christian healing.

The Commandments of Moses, given to the Israelites and coming with undying power down the ages, stand as a correcting angel which, obeyed, lifts thought to the worship of the one God, and destroys the grosser sins of mankind. The perfect teaching uttered by Christ Jesus, embodied in what is known as the Sermon on the Mount, becomes to him who strives to follow it a celestial correction of every material impulse and temptation. The full revelation of the truth of being, brought to this age through its revelator, Mary Baker Eddy, reverses the entire belief in the material routine of birth, maturity, and decay, uncovering it as a wrong sense of God's man, disclosing the true creation as spiritual, perfect, intact, and immortal—the divine idea in divine Mind. And here is full heavenly correction, as it is demonstrated, for all that afflicts mankind.

The Scriptures record that while Jesus was praying in the agony of Gethsemane, "there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him." In the dire extremity of the Master, the bestowals of divine Love were with him, girding him with power to withstand the oppression of evil. So to all under human stress can come the strengthening angel of the divine presence, and with its coming, correction, adjustment, healing, must come also.

The real man, reflecting perfection, needs no improvement. Correction appears to the human sense only. In the present necessities of human limitation the appearing of the real acts as continual adjustment to human beliefs, replacing them with true ideas of spiritual existence. Through this transforming acceptance of angels the false sense of man as material yields to the understanding that man is spiritual. To spiritual sense the real is the tangible. The unity of God and man, Mind and idea, more and more appears as the fact of true being. Thus thought comes to rest understandingly in Christ Jesus' prayer to the Father, "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one."

Reflection of divine Mind constitutes Christian Science treatment. Divine Mind furnishes legions of angels to the rightly listening thought. He who does no more than to repeat obediently, and strive to understand, statements of Truth as the Scriptures and the Christian Science textbook set them forth, is, through such sincere beginnings, enlarging his receptivity to sustaining, correcting angels. Simple obedience to right thinking is a fundamental rule of Christian Science. One corrects, primarily, not his neighbor's outlook, but his own. As one lovingly obeys this rule, spiritual vistas will open more widely to him, understanding will deepen, spiritual footing will become more secure. For the

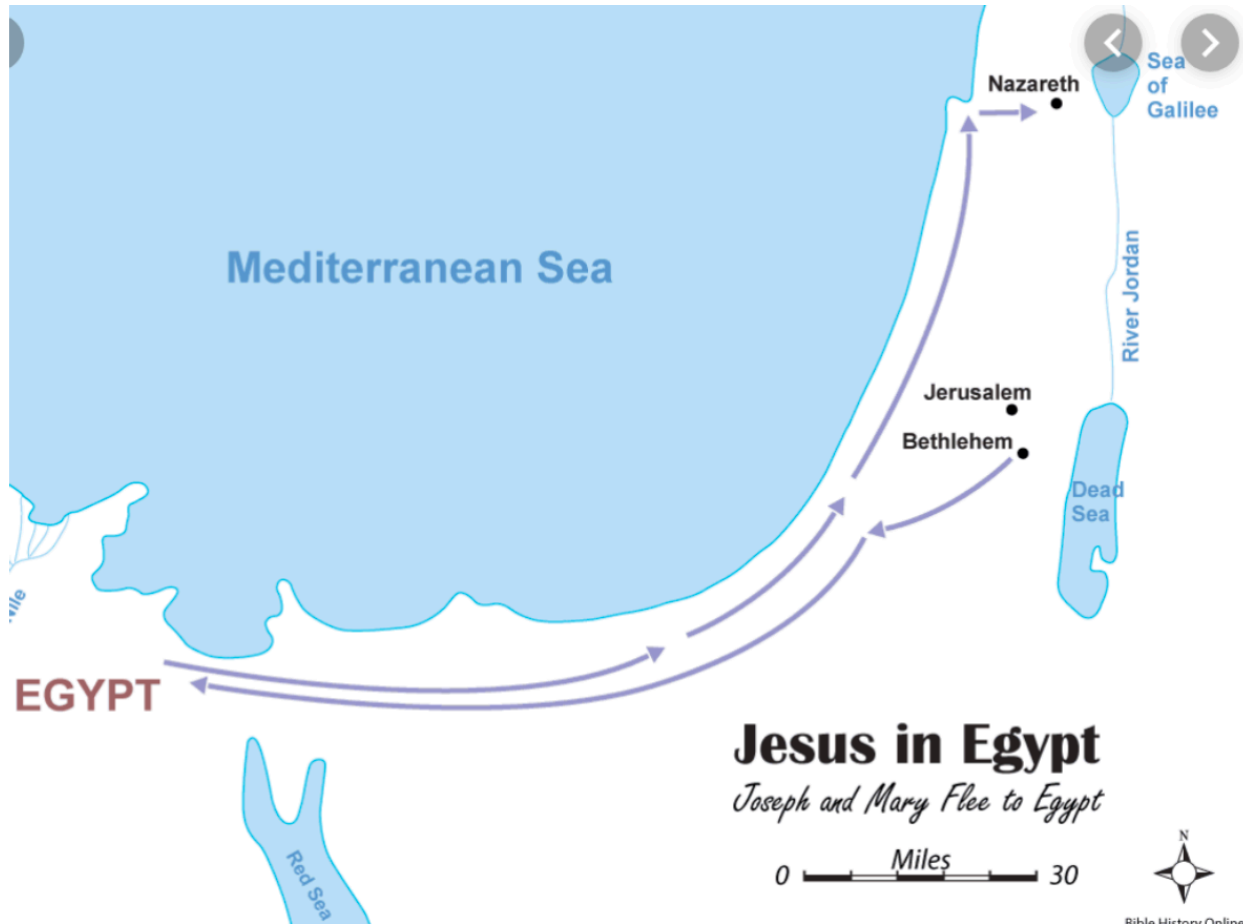
office of the angel is not only to correct falsity, but to quicken spiritual apprehension in all ways.

Mrs. Eddy writes on [page 298](#) of Science and Health, "Spiritual ideas lead up to their divine origin, God, and to the spiritual sense of being." It is, truly, an upward pathway. Angels of spiritual intuition are precious guides, leading always into light. No one is so far removed from good that some angel of right purpose cannot stir in him a desire for better things. No one need despair. He needs only to follow his best sense of right to find it bringing him into a still larger and clearer sense of right. Thus he is led by angels. Simply and satisfyingly he comes to know that he can companion with spiritual ideas, "God's thoughts passing to man," and that they can be to him salvation to the uttermost.

The Annunciation



Joseph's Route to Egypt



Joseph takes Mary to Egypt





Painting at Chestnut Hill

Angel with the little book open: Painting at the top of the stairs in Chestnut Hill

Angel With the ‘Little Book Open’ In 1899, Katharine Fitchner Swope, a highly regarded New York artist, undertook a major painting based on the following passage in Science and Health: St. John writes, in the tenth chapter of his book of Revelation: — And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: and he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth. This angel or message which comes from God, clothed with a cloud, prefigures divine Science. Mrs. Swope had become a member of The Mother Church in 1898, after taking Primary class instruction from Laura Lathrop in New York. From the artist’s letters, it seems that she may have been given some direction and encouragement from Mrs. Eddy in the design of this painting.

The finished work, titled Revelation, stands an imposing six and a half feet tall. In 1901, Mrs. Swope had it mounted in a custom-made dark frame, then sent it to Pleasant View as an Easter gift for Mrs. Eddy. Her instructions placed it high on the wall; she wrote, “The horizon of the picture should be on a line with the eye — which greatly ennoble the figure.” The picture’s location in the Pleasant View parlor did not quite realize her intention, but at Chestnut Hill it was placed at the top of the stairs, thus fulfilling the artist’s vision. On the second-floor landing, a reproduction hangs where Mrs. Eddy’s original painting once hung. Katharine Swope, Revelation, 1900, oil on canvas, 78 x 46 inches. Giclée reproduction made from a photo by Mark Thayer © The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts. Used with permission.

"Angel with the Little Book" . . . continued"

