

Handouts for Week of October 30, 2023-"Adam and Fallen Man"

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"I was there," by Violet Hay

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"I WAS THERE"

VIOLET HAY

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The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way When he prepared the heavens, I was there. Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him" (<u>Prov. 8:22-30</u>). These are words of wisdom from the book of Proverbs. But how aptly may one utter them in recognition and acknowledgment of man's pre-existence and coexistence with his creator.

Before we came into Christian Science, many of us probably accepted the belief, general among Christians, that life begins for us here and that we can look forward to spiritual immortality hereafter. Christian Science shows us that anything which has a beginning must have an ending and that which is immortal must be eternally immortal.

To unillumined thinking, the idea of pre-existence can bring with it little spiritual comfort or inspiration. What can be known, or even theorized, about this idea by mortals if their thought can only go back to monkeys and molecules or to transmigration? However, in Christian Science the revelation of God, Principle, as the true origin, cause, and governing law of man and the universe brings to light spiritual causation and the eternal continuity of perfect effect.

As Christian Scientists we acknowledge one infinite God as the only cause and creator, and man as His effect. Therefore all cause must be Spirit, and effect spiritual. Infinite Mind being all-inclusive, there can be nothing outside of it. Everything included in infinity, untouched by time and space limitations, always was, is, and ever will be. Infinity never began. Thus there never was a time when individual man, as a complete and perfect idea of infinite Mind, did not exist. He did not have to be made out of nothing. To understand this correctly is to understand something of pre-existence.

It is very important for us intelligently to acknowledge our pre-existence; in fact, it is as important as to acknowledge our immortality. Pre-existence is included in our immortality: it is part of it. Jesus did not say, "Before Abraham was, I was." No. He said (John 8:58), "Before Abraham was, I am." He knew the continuity of his true being and could say (John 8:14), "I know whence I came, and whither I go."

Mary Baker Eddy says in "Miscellaneous Writings" (p. 189). "The meek Nazarene's steadfast and true knowledge of preexistence, of the nature and the inseparability of God and man,—made him mighty." Have we, any of us, sufficient "steadfast and true knowledge of preexistence, of the nature and the inseparability of God and man" which makes mighty? If not, why not? The power is always in the spiritual right idea, and this right idea of the true knowledge concerning pre-existence and the coexistence and inseparability of God and man is revealed to us in Christian Science now. Is it not imperative for us to ponder this and lay hold of that which can bring us newness of life, great comfort, encouragement, and joyful inspiration?

In "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" Mrs. Eddy states (p. 557), "Divine Science rolls back the clouds of error with the light of Truth, and lifts the curtain on man as never born and as never dying, but as coexistent with his creator." "Never born," "coexistent with his creator"! If we do not recognize

what that means in relation to our pre-existence, we are surely leaving something which needs to be recognized.

Anyone who does not know enough about pre-existence to acknowledge and accept it with joy must have as yet a very incomplete concept of his immortal being and therefore cannot rejoice in that glory which Jesus had with the Father "before the world was" (John 17:5). If we did not have that glory with God in our pre-existence, we can never have it. Our Father-Mother God, the infinite divine Love which is changeless Principle, knows no variableness or shadow of turning.

Let us refer again to that rousing challenge to us all—to come out of the darkness of materiality into the glorious light which reveals the splendor of our immortal being. "Divine Science rolls back the clouds of error with the light of Truth, and lifts the curtain on man as never born and as never dying, but as coexistent with his creator." How marvelous to have that curtain lifted, that veil swept away, and to know ourselves, our true, immortal selfhood, as coexistent with our creator! Divine Science reveals this coexistence to us today, for our enlightenment, encouragement, and joyous freedom. Let us claim it, demonstrate it.

Never born and never dying — that is the truth regarding man, and to understand and demonstrate it, we must go back to man's pre-existence and claim all that belongs to it. We must claim the continuity of the perfection which belongs to each one of us as the perpetual reflection of perfect Mind, the emanation of divine Love.

To begin rightly is important. So let us ponder spiritual causation and with awe and joyful gratitude demonstrate what an understanding of man's spiritual origin means for us. From that standpoint, each one of us can declare with complete confidence such truths as: "My background, as God's idea or reflection, is wholly satisfactory. I am the effect of spiritual causation alone. My nature, therefore, is wholly spiritual, Godlike, perfect, complete. It always has been, is so now, and always will be. My origin is perfection, and the continuity of this perfection is my immortality."

Mrs. Eddy has shown us that our Master's true vision of man's spiritual, eternal perfection was the basis of his marvelous healing ministry. May we not all feel that it is both comforting and encouraging for us to turn from the false evidence of material sense, ponder man's original and eternal perfection, and identify ourselves and our fellow men with it? Perfection is the truth of our being, and it is mighty!

We must constantly endeavor to see ourselves through the lens of Spirit. How sympathetically our Leader brings this out in "The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany" (p. 129): "And how is man, seen through the lens of Spirit, enlarged, and how counterpoised his origin from dust, and how he presses to his original, never severed from Spirit!" To see ourselves, the universe, all things, no longer through "a glass, darkly," but through the lens of Spirit, will surely dissipate the mistiness of the Adam-dream, and the reality of all things will come to light.

The Bible records that out of the whirlwind Job heard the voice of God saying to him (Job 38:3, 4): "I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." Is not this divine demand uttering itself to us today, asking for a right understanding and acknowledgment of our pre-existence and coexistence with our Maker?

As all that is implied in this demand unfolds to our thought, we shall find ourselves able to reply understandingly to that momentous question, "Where, wast thou?" with joyous conviction (Job 38:7), " 'When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy,' I was there."

Lord, "I was there "!



Sects of the Jews

Chart of Jewish Religious Sects

<u>Pharisees:</u>

- 6 to 7,000 in Palestine
 - teachers & preachers of the law (rabbi)
 - taught in Synagogues
 - Torah written law
 - \circ Scribal opinion/'oral law
 - controlled every phase of Jewish life
 - hoped for the Messiah: King
 - believed in the resurrection
 - Held supreme influence over Jews
 - Qualities of thought: stereotype
 - Arrogant, pious, selfrighteous, hypocrites,
 - Corrupt, spiritually dull

Ex. Of Pharisees:

- 1. Nicodemus
- 2. Paul
- 3. Jairus

ESSENES: lived in communes,

4,000 in Palestine, monks, believed in purity, no marriage, opposed to slavery, war

wrote and saved the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran

<u>Sadducees</u>:

- from aristocratic families
- inherited position
- controlled Temple Worship
- accepted written law
- rejected oral law
- denied resurrection
- held power in Sanhedrin
- hostile to Jesus' movement
- believed in sacrifice of animals in Temple
- called "high priest"
- wealthy
- very politically motived
- right wing extremists

Zealots:

Patriotic fanatics Wanted to war against Rome Willing to fight to death Wanted a David-like King to be Messiah Started many wars Started the war with Rome in 66 CE that caused Rome to destroy Jerusalem and Temple

SCRIBES:

- sat in Sanhedrin (a few of them)
- influential as lawyers: "doctors of the law
- job: to study, preserve Jewish law
- hand copied, edited all Scripture
- interpreted the law: Torah

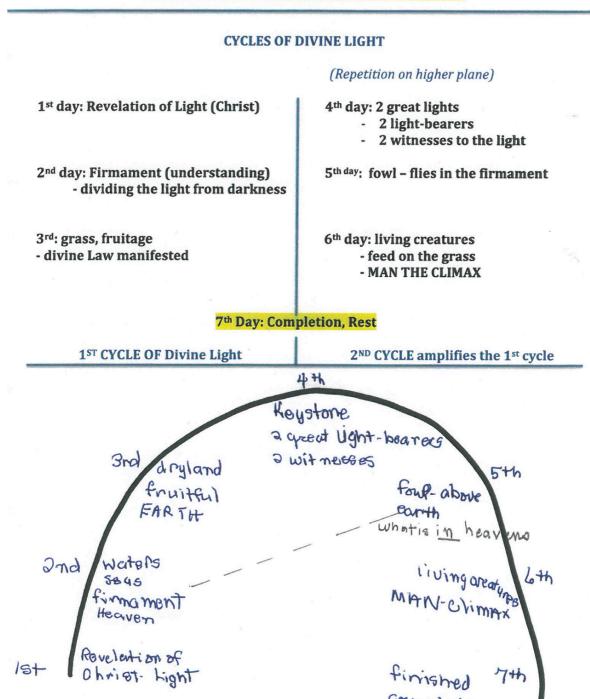
<u>Sanhedrin</u>:

- supreme court
- 70 priests, scribes, elders etc.
- met in
- Temple, sat in semi-circle
- High Priest presiding (Caiaphas)
- Debated and passed judgment
- Crimes: heresy, blasphemy, Sabbath breaking
- Could ask for death penalty but had to be approved by Roman governor (Pilate)



Chart on Genesis I

7 Days of Creation: the Banner over the whole Bible Revelation of the unfolding spiritual idea or Divine Science Infinite Calculus of Spirit (209:25; 520:12; Mis. 22:11)



5 of 8



"Morning Stars Sang"

Morning Stars sang..

<u>4Where wast thou</u> when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7)

When he prepared the heavens, I was there: (Proverbs 8:27)

So-called mineral, vegetable, and animal substances are no more contingent now on time or material structure than they were **when "the morning stars sang together."** Mind made the "plant of the field before it was in the earth." (509:20)

In this eternal harmony of Science, man is not fallen: he is governed in the same rhythm that the Scripture describes, when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." (Miscellaneous Writings 259:18)

Man, in Science, is as perfect and immortal now, as when "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." (Unity. 42:13)



Seven Days of Creation in Genesis

SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION: GENESIS I

FIRST DAY:

Gen. 1:1-5

1IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

SECOND DAY:

Gen. 1:6-8

6J And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.

8And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

THIRD DAY:

Gen. 1:9-11, 13

9J And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so. 10And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was* good. 11And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12And the earth brought forth grass and the herb yielding see after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. 13And the evening and the morning were the third day.

FOURTH DAY:

Gen. 1:14, 15, 18, 19

14¶ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

Gen. 1:16, 17

16And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. 17And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was* good. 19And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

FIFTH DAY

Gen. 1:20, 21, 23

20And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

23And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

SIXTH DAY:

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth,

and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very

good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

SEVENTH DAY:

GEN. 2:1, 3 1THUS the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.