

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Updated 4/29/2023

CONTENTS

- Quotes (p. 1)
- Topics (p.7)
- Blessings (p. 8)
- Information on Mary Baker Eddy's Poems (p. 8)
- Organization of the Bible study (p. 11)
- Notes on how to study (p. 11)
- References (p. 14)

Notes for questions:

- Vision of Christ (p. 15)
- Seven letters (p. 16)
- Visions one to six (p. 21)

QUOTES

1/15/2022: Heaven represents harmony, and divine Science interprets the Principle of heavenly harmony. The great miracle, to human sense, is divine Love, and the grand necessity of existence is to gain the true idea of what constitutes the kingdom of heaven in man. — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 560: 10-15

2/12/2022: The understanding of Truth and Love, the Principle which works out the ends of the eternal good and destroys both faith in evil and the practice of evil, leads to the discernment of the divine idea. — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 561: 1-4

3/12/2022: Self-abnegation, by which we lay down all for Truth, or Christ in our warfare against error, is a rule in Christian Science. This rule clearly interprets God as divine Principle - as Life, represented by the Father: as Truth, represented by the Son; as Love, represented by the Mother. Every mortal at some period, here or hereafter, must grapple with and overcome the mortal belief in a power opposed to God. — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 568-9: 30-5

4/9/2022: At all times and under all circumstances, overcome evil with good. Know thyself, and God will supply the wisdom and the occasion for a victory over evil. Clad in the panoply of Love, human hatred cannot reach you. The cement of higher humanity will unite all interests in the one divinity. — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 571: 15-21

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

5/14/2022: Thus we see, in both the first and last books of the Bible, - in Genesis and in the Apocalypse, - that sin is to be Christianly and scientifically reduced to its native nothingness. "Love one another" (1 John, iii 23), is the most simple and profound counsel of the inspired writer. In Science we are children of God; but whatever is of material sense, or mortal, belongs not to His children, for materiality is the inverted image of spirituality.

Love fulfils, the law of Christian Science,... — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 572: 3-12 (to "Science,")

6/4/2022: Mankind must learn that evil is not power. Its so-called despotism is but a phase of nothingness. Christian Science despoils the kingdom of evil, and re-eminently promotes affection and virtue in families and therefore in the community.

The destruction of the claims of mortal mind through Science, by which man can escape from sin and mortality, blesses the whole human family. — from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 102: 30-2; page 103: 6-9)

9/17/2022: For three years Mrs. Eddy withdrew from the world to meditate and pray and search the Scriptures, and she enjoined all students of Christian Science to study the Scriptures and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures habitually. And we should value daily our study before everything else, for this study promotes the individualization of the Science of Life. The Scriptures, when understood in the light of the revelation of our textbook, become fundamental and very sacred to the student of Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy says, "the Bible was written in order that all peoples, in all ages, should have the same opportunity to become students of the Christ, Truth, and thus become God-endued with power (knowledge of divine law) and with "signs following." (Miscellany, page 190:23-27). From Addresses, by Martha Wilcox, page 339

10/15/2022: "The Bible consists of that which came to man from God recorded down through the ages. Therefore, it would be permissible to call whatever came to man from God, the Bible. It is for this very reason that Mrs. Eddy was justified in linking Science and Health with the Bible, because the former is the present-day revelation of God to man. Science and Health is like a spade, which, when thrust into the garden of the Bible, breaks up the crust that has been formed down through the centuries, and enables it once more to put forth the rich spiritual fruitage that it is capable of growing.

"The Bible has a background of centuries of human history, but its pith and essence is its spiritual teaching, apart from any history. It is the Science of God and man, which was revealed to man. Thus, each student has his chance to continue the unbroken chain of the Bible and to contribute to it, since it is necessary to record that God is talking to His children in every age."

From Precepts, by Gilbert Carpenter

11/19/2022: Love fulfills the law of Christian Science, and nothing short of this divine Principle, understood and demonstrated, can ever furnish the vision of the Apocalypse, open the seven

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

seals of error with Truth, or uncover the myriad illusions of sin, sickness, and death. Under the supremacy of Spirit, it will be seen and acknowledged that matter must disappear. from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 572: 12)

12/17/2022:

SIGNS OF THE HEART

Come to me, joys of heaven!
Breathe through the summer air
A balm — the long-lost leaven
Dissolving death, despair!
O little heart,
To me thou art
A sign that never can depart.

Come to me, peace on earth!
From out life's billowy sea, —
A wave of welcome birth, —
The Life that lives in Thee!
O Love divine, This heart of Thine
Is all I need to comfort mine.

Come when the shadows fall,
And night grows deeply dark;
The barren brood, O call
With song of morning lark;
And from above,
Dear heart of Love,
Send us thy white-winged dove.
Pleasant View, Concord, N. H., 1899.

Poems by Mary Baker Eddy,

Published by The Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker G. Eddy, Boston, 1910

1/28/2023:

Invocation To 1868

Father of every age,
Of every rolling sphere,
Help us to write a deathless page
Of truth this dawning year!

Help us to humbly bow

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

To thine all-wise behest
Whatever the gift of joy or woe,
Knowing thou knoweth best.

Aid our poor soul to sing
Above the tempest's glee;
Give us the eagle's fearless wing,
The dove's to soar to thee!

All merciful and good,
Hover our homeless heart!
Give us each day our daily food
In knowing what Thou art!

Swampscott, Massachusetts January 1st 1868, by Mary Baker Eddy

2/25/2023:

No one could serve twelve years under Mrs. Eddy's counsel and instruction without realizing how clearly she recognized her position as prophesied by St. John the Revelator. With superb courage, she braved the severe encounters which the resistance and hatred of the carnal mind persistently enlisted against the spiritual idea presented in Christian Science, for she perceived the fulfillment of the Revelator's prophecy in her own life, and in Christian Science. This is evidenced by her own words: "The twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse, or Revelation of St. John, has a special suggestiveness in connection with the nineteenth century."

Through her fidelity to divine Principle, Mary Baker Eddy was enabled to open the seven-sealed book mentioned in Revelation by means of the spiritual idea revealed in Christian Science. The Apocalyptic vision she elucidated not only in written words, but also in living letters of fire in her own life experience.

As the years passed, Mary Baker Eddy's true position will be more fully recognized and appreciated. As Jesus strove to turn the attention of his disciples away from his corporeality and to open their eyes to his real identity, so did Mrs. Eddy endeavor to turn the thought of her followers away from her personality and to reveal through her writings her true place in spiritual history.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The real identity of God's messenger to this age will be unfolded as mankind seeks to understand it through a study of the Bible and her writings.

— from Twelve years with Mary Baker Eddy, by Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson, pp. 218-219

Easter Morn

3/18/2023:

Gently thou beckonest from the giant hills
The new-born beauty in the emerald sky,
And wakening murmurs from the drowsy rills —
O gladsome dayspring! 'reft of mortal sigh
To glorify all time — eternity —
With thy still fathomless Christ-majesty.

E'en as Thou gildest gladdened joy, dear God,
Give risen power to prayer; fan Thou the flame
Of right with might; and midst the rod,
And stern, dark shadows cast on Thy blest name,
Lift Thou a patient love above earth's ire,
Piercing the clouds with its triumphal spire.

While sacred song and loudest breath of praise
Echo amid the hymning spheres of light,—
With heaven's lyres and angels' loving lays,—
Send to the loyal struggler for the right,
Joy — not of time, nor yet by nature sown,
But the celestial seed dropped from Love's
throne.

Prolong the strain "Christ risen!" Sad sense, annoy
No more the peace of Soul's sweet solitude!
Deep loneness, tear-filled tones of distant joy,
Depart! Glad Easter glows with gratitude —
Love's verdure veils the leaflet's wondrous birth
Rich rays, rare footprints on the dust of earth.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Not life, the vassal of the changeful hour,
Nor burdened bliss, but Truth and Love attest
The solemn splendor of immortal power, —
The ever Christ, and glorified behest,
Poured on the sense which deems no suffering vain
That wipes away the sting of death — sin, pain.

Pleasant View, Concord, N. H., April 18, 1900

— from Poems, published 1910,
by Mary Baker Eddy, page 30-31

4/29/2023:

Upward

“I’ve watched in the azure the eagle’s proud wing,
His soaring majestic, and feathersome fling —
Careening in liberty higher and higher —
Like genius unfolding a quenchless desire.

Would a tear dim his eye, or pinion lose power
To gaze on the lark in her emerald bower?
When higher he soareth to compass his rest,
What vision so bright as the dream in his breast!

God’s eye is upon him. He penciled his path
Whose omniscient notice the frail fledgling hath.
Though lightnings be lurid and earthquakes may shock,
He rides on the whirlwind or rests on the rock.

My course, like the eagle’s, oh, still be it high,
Celestial the breezes that waft o’er its sky!
God’s eye is upon me — I am not alone
When onward and upward and heavenward borne.

(Written in early years)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

— from Poems, published 1910, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 18

TOPICS

1/15/2022: Revelation is a book of blessings.

2/12/2022: Behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me. (Rev 4:1)

3/12/2022: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:6)

4/9/2022: [You are] the blessed child of God (S&H 573, 18; read “Nearness of Deity,” 13-2)

5/14/2022: Love fulfills the law (Romans 13:10)

6/4/2022: Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (Jeremiah 17:7)

9/17/2022: “It is a blessed thing to study the scriptures” Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary, (Rev. 1:3)

10/15/2022: God is Talking to His Children

11/19/2022 & 12/17/2022: For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. (Luke 12:2)

1/28/2023: Salvation belongs to our God. (Rev. 7:10); Opening the Seven Seals — Part 3

2/28/2023: The mighty angel with the little book”(Rev. 10:1-2); God’s Angels Expose and Destroy Error

3/16/2023: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne. (Rev 14:3); The Two Witnesses

4/29/2023: O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. (Psalm 98:1)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

BLESSINGS

See Tomlinson, p.109, "Seven beatitudes in the Revelation"

1/15/2022: Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Rev 1:3)

2/12/2022: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Rev 14:13)

3/12/2022: Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. (Rev 16:5)

4/9/2022: Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Rev 19:9)

5/14/2022: Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)

6/4/2022: Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book (Rev 22:7)

9/17/2022: Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (Revelation 22:14.)

INFORMATION ON MARY BAKER EDDY'S POEMS

Poems by Mary Baker Eddy, Publication date 1910, Publisher the trustees under the will of mary baker g. eddy, boston, u.s.a.

<https://archive.org/details/poems0000mary/page/24/mode/2up?view=theater>

SIGNS OF THE HEART, BY MARY BAKER G. EDDY, From the July 1899 issue of The Christian Science Journal

<https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1899/7/17-4/signs-of-the-heart>

Must be a subscriber to access this article

POEMS BY MARY BAKER EDDY

From the December 1910 issue of The Christian Science Journal

<https://journal.christianscience.com/issues/1910/12/28-9/poems-by-mary-baker-eddy>

Must be a subscriber to access this article

"More personal than prose": Mary Baker Eddy's poetry collection, By Heather Vogel Frederick - April 13, 2015, Longyear

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

<https://www.longyear.org/learn/research-archive/more-personal-than-prose-mary-baker-eddys-poetry-collection/>

“I was a verse-maker”: Mary Baker Eddy’s poems, April 1, 2012, Mary Baker Eddy Library
<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/poetry-and-prose-mary-baker-eddys-poems/>

OUR LEADER'S POEMS, Archibald McLellan, EDITORIAL, NOVEMBER 5, 1910 ISSUE
<https://sentinel.christianscience.com/shared/view/218l77rttae?s=t>

From the Papers: Mary Baker Eddy’s poetry, April 12, 2021, Mary Baker Eddy Library
<https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/research/from-the-papers-mary-baker-eddys-poetry/>

Mary Baker Eddy and Poetry, By Kelly Byquist - April 26, 2019, Longyear
<https://www.longyear.org/learn/research-archive/mary-baker-eddy-and-the-poets-of-her-day/>

Poems by Mary Baker Eddy, May 13, 1867, Mary Baker Eddy Library
<https://mbepapers.org/?select=A10009&action=activate>

The archives include poems that may not have been published. To access the poems:

- Select the “ACCESS THE PAPERS” button
- Go to “Type”
- Select “poem”

Alone

Love's golden chain and fervent vow
Are broken, and forever now!
And can he bask in fortune's ray,
Who took from out my skies their day
And live to learn, and love to own,
He made a heart forever lone?
O weary lot! oh tired sigh,
Alone to live, alone to die.

Yet not alone—methinks I see
A Mother look in love on me,
As in the golden hours flown,
When youth and joy were all my own,
And in my ear this music pour
Thy God is with thee evermore;
To soothe thy grief and check thy sigh
A love divine, so full, and nigh.

Then not alone, I'll bear the cross,
Through pain and wrong, and know no loss

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Of faith and kindest charity,
The law of Christ fulfilled in me
And make my prayer a loving deed,
My life a great and noble creed,
With God to know just what am I
In patient peace I'll live and die.
Mary M B Glover
Lynn Oct 6th 1874
In my chamber, (Solus)
7 Broad St.

LIST OF POEMS IN AVAILABLE IN THE ARCHIVES

A Hymn of Progress (A10039)
Alone (A10023)
Alone with God (A11384)
Anniversary Ode (A10011)
The Enquiry (L14743B)
Home on High Rock (A11385)
Hymn of Science (L13374)
I Think Of Thee (A10038)
I Think of Thee (Draft) (A11108)
I'm Sitting Alone (A10018)
Invocation To 1868 (A10019)
Maj Anderson and Our Country (A10007)
Mary Baker Eddy to Andrew Gault Jr., January 1836 (A11312)
Mary Baker Eddy to Angeline A. Crane, February 10, 1867 (L18662)
Mary Baker Eddy to Church of Christ, Scientist, 1882 (L00002)
Mary Baker Eddy to Priscilla Clement Wheeler, 1848 (A11395)
May 1st 1881 -- (A10730)
Memento (A10028)
Memories Of Galilee (A10056)
No More (A10010)
Olivet (A10022)
Poem by Mary Baker Eddy on the death of Phineas Parkhurst Quimby, March 19, 1866 (L11303)
Poem by Mary Baker Eddy, May 13, 1867 (A10009)
Poem by Mary Baker Eddy, November 6, 1863 (L05671)
Shade and Sunshine (A10032)
Song by Mary Baker Eddy (A10020)
Sonnet, 1861 (A10008)
Sonnet, 1863 (V03095A)
Spring (A10024)
To My Mother After a long separation (A10001)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

To the Old Year, 1865 (L11302)
To The South Wind (A11096)
Truth (A10030)
Woman's Rights (A10004)

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Organization of the book of Revelation:

Write the things which thou hast seen [vision of Christ Jesus], and the things which are [letters to the churches], and the things which shall be hereafter [seven visions] (Rev 1:19)

Organization of the Bible Study of the book of Revelation:

- How to study the book of Revelation
- Seven blessings in the book of Revelation
- Vision of Christ Jesus (introduction)
- Letters to the seven churches
- Six visions
- Seventh vision (eternal state)
- Conclusion (John & the Angel, Epilogue, and Benediction)

NOTES ON HOW TO STUDY

See Tomlinson on how to study using his book. Please refer to page IV.

You are blessed

It is wonderful that the book of Revelation is a book full of blessings. As one studies the book of Revelation, it may seem daunting to try and figure out what some of the passages mean and we may think we are not getting anything out of it. Frankly, it can seem confusing. That does not matter. The blessings in the book of Revelation are there to bless as one studies the book of Revelation. There should be no concern over how much one thinks they are comprehending. Regardless, people are blessed for studying the book of Revelation. Each Bible study will begin by discussing one of the seven blessings found in the book of Revelation (see Tomlinson, p. 109).

Interpreting the book of Revelation

There are various methods people use to interpret and explain the book of Revelation:

Literary structure:

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

An example of a literary structure is organizing writing in groups of seven which indicates “perfection.” There is an almost endless list of literary structures and devices used in Revelation which indicates that everything written in this book has a place and purpose. Tomlinson wrote: “it is one of the most nearly perfect structures in all literature” (Preface, vii)

Imagery:

Imagery creates a visual picture. An example of imagery is “raining cats and dogs.” An example from Revelation - “the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.” (Rev 12:6)

Symbols:

A symbol represents a meaning different than its literal sense. Understanding what a symbol represents, similar to understanding a literary structure, can help to understand what the passage means. Symbols are numerous in the book of Revelation and below describes different ways people use to determine what a symbol stands for.

Symbols explained in Revelation

Rather than using the word such as “angels,” Revelation uses a symbol (“i.e., “stars”) to represent “angels”. Sometimes Revelation tells you what the symbol means – “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” (Rev 1:20). To expand on the meaning, one could continue researching in the Bible. For example, Hebrews 1:13,14 describe angels as “ministering Spirits.”

Symbols explained in the Old Testament

Many symbols are explained in the Old Testament. Kratzer wrote, “the symbolism of Revelation is the symbolism of the Old Testament prophecy revived” (Kratzer, p.36). An example - “his feet like unto fine brass (bronze in other translations)” (Rev 1:15) – Deut. 33:25 and Jer. 1:18 help explain this as these verses indicate that since bronze is a strong material it is used for protection. Also, bronze is known for being ductile which means that it “can flow under severe stress.”

Symbols explained in mythology

Other times, according to Hoyt, some symbols have a background in Egyptian, Babylonian, and Greek mythology.

Numerology:

Numerology is used for interpretation and prophecy. For example, the number five is considered to represent respect, kindness, grace. In Genesis 43:34, Benjamin is given five times the portion of food and the brothers were “merry with him” (meaning they respected him). Another example is the number seven which is considered to represent completeness and perfection.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Numbers in the book of Revelation are sometimes used to determine future events. This is an example – “they should be tormented five months” (Rev 9:5). Barnes’ commentary writes in part - “Five months – So far as the words here are concerned this might be taken literally, denoting five months or one hundred and fifty days; or as a prophetic reckoning, where a day stands for a year.”

Apocalyptic:

Apocalyptic literature is a type of prophecy that uses imagery and symbols and other devices to tell about future disasters and destruction.

Other types of interpretations.....

Endless ways people find to interpret the book of Revelation.

In summary on different interpretation methods

The intent or use of methods of interpretation is important to consider - In Deuteronomy 18:10 – “There shall not be found among you anyone thatuseth divination, or an observer of times.” Also, Leviticus 19:26 – “...neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.” When it comes to using any literary device, one should consider how it is being used (the intent). Is it being used to understand a concept (or principle) or is it used being used to determine human events? Or perhaps another way to look it - how is it helping (or not) in our spiritual understanding?

Kratzer on prophecy

Kratzer had this to say about prophecy – “... let it be remembered that the primary significance of “prophecy” is “professing” or “enunciating,” without regard to any time element, past, present, or future. Foretelling the future is only incidental to the office of the prophet and is not a basic or necessary characteristic of his work.” Revelation Interpreted by Rev. G. A. Kratzer, p.251

Overall, the above types of interpretations can be discussed in the Bible study when helpful. In general, they are not the focus of this Bible study. There can be an endless nature of analyzing interpretations which becomes a pursuit in and of itself lacking in spiritual understanding.

An Open Book that is useful in our daily life

The focus of this Bible study is to understand key messages in Revelation. The intent is to make this Bible study useful in our daily life. These messages are sometimes all too easy to find, and the book of Revelation is not that mysterious. It is an open book as Tomlinson describes it. Tomlinson wrote in the Preface of his book that the inspired writings of MBE made this an open book (Tomlinson, Preface, vii-viii). And indeed, Revelation tells us that with the “key of David,” that heaven will be opened (to our understanding):

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; (Rev 3:7)

After this I looked and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking to me; (Rev 4:1)

The key of David:

And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. (Isaiah 22:22)

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: (Matthew 16:19)

The quote in Matthew above is when Jesus was talking to Peter and the other disciples, and he was saying to them that he will give them the means to understand God. Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible wrote this about the keys:

The "keys" of it are abilities to open and explain the Gospel truths,...

In summary, our study of the book of Revelation seeks to accomplish the following:

- Learn about the blessings given in the book of Revelation and how we are blessed by studying this book.
- Understand key messages that can be easily found in the book of Revelation and be able to use them in our daily life

REFERENCES

This section provides references that can be used for studying the book of Revelation:

Primary reference:

Start with Part III on page 111. Refer to prior pages as needed.

The Revelation Of St. John An Open Book by Irving C.

Tomlinson; Publication date 1936

<https://archive.org/details/revelationofstjo00toml/page/n3/mode/2up>

Other References:

Revelation Interpreted by Rev. G. A. Kratzer, Chicago, 1915

<https://downloads.plainfieldcs.com/Members/Revelation%20Interpreted%20by%20Rev.%20G.%20A.%20Kratzer,%202nd%20edition.pdf>

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NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Studies in the Apocalypse of John of Patmos, A non-interpretive and literary approach of the Last Book of the English Bible by Edyth Hoyt; Columbus, OH, 1954

<https://archive.org/details/studiesinapocaly00hoyt>

Bible Hub: use to study specific verses and to read Bible commentary:

<https://biblehub.com/>

1828 Webster's dictionary:

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/>

"The Seven Churches" From the Christian Science Journal, October 1917 by Caroline Getty

<https://articles.plainfieldcs.com/writings-about-the-bible/the-seven-churches/>

COMMENT ON STUDY NOTES

The notes that follow are not the "answers" but to assist in preparing for the Bible study. Please feel free to prepare for the Bible study however it works best for you. Please read Tomlinson as that is being used as our guide for the study of the book of Revelation.

VISION OF CHRIST JESUS

Rev 1:1-19

First Vision of Revelation:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John. (Rev 1:1)

First Blessing, Rev 1:3

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

DEFINITION OF THE WORD "REVELATION"

Revelation (Greek: apokaluptó) from Rev 1:1; Strong's 601

1. properly, to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up; to disclose, make bare:

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

As Kratzer writes – “revelation (Greek apocalypse) means “unveiling.”

Revelation - Webster's 1828

1. The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God himself, or by his authorized agents, the prophets and apostles.
2. That which is revealed; appropriately, the sacred truths which God has communicated to man for his instruction and direction. The revelations of God are contained in the Old and New Testament.

Ephesians 3:3 - Paul

How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery

S&H references from Tomlinson

The magnitude of Jesus' work, his material disappearance before their eyes and his reappearance, all enabled the disciples to understand what Jesus had said. Heretofore they had only believed: now they understood. The advent of this understanding is what is meant by the descent of the Holy Ghost, - that influx of divine Science which so illuminated the Pentecostal Day and is now repeating its ancient history. (S&H 43:3)

Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. (S&H 323:32-2)

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

.....What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. (Rev 1:11)

S&H p.252:8-14

A knowledge of error and of its operations must precede that understanding of Truth which destroys error, until the entire mortal, material error finally disappears, and the eternal verity, man created by and of Spirit, is understood and recognized as the true likeness of his Maker

The Church of Ephesus

Rev 2:1-7

Material condition: Unfaithfulness, lack of fruitage (“left thy first love,” Rev 2:4)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Spiritual quality: Faithfulness (“do the first works,” Rev 2:5)

Blessing: Eternal fruitage (“eat of the tree of life,” Rev:2:7)

Tree of Life Genesis

2:

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Proverbs 3:18

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is everyone that retaineth her.

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

Wisdom allegorized as a tree of life—whose fruit preserves life, gives all that makes living a blessing.

S&H 145:32

Our Master’s first article of faith propounded to his students was healing, and he proved his faith by his works.

The Church of Smyrna

Rev 2:8-11

Material condition: Hypocrisy, blasphemy, false teachings (“blasphemy of them which say they are Jews and are not,” Rev 2:9)

Spiritual quality: Honesty (“be thou faithful,” Rev 2:11)

Blessing: Eternal life (“shall not be hurt of the second life,” Rev 2:11)

Hebrews 11:27

By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Misc. 226:9-12

What has an individual gained by losing his own self-respect? Or what has he lost when, retaining his own, he loses the homage of fools, or the pretentious praise of hypocrites, false to themselves as to others?

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

S&H 596:29

VEIL. A cover; concealment; hiding; hypocrisy

S&H 453:16

Honesty is spiritual power.

The Church of Pergamos

Rev 2:12-17

Material condition: Sensuality ("to commit fornication") Rev 2:14

Spiritual quality: Praise God ("overcometh," Rev 2:17)

Blessing: Sustenance ("hidden manna," Rev 2:17)

Psalms 68:4

Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah, and rejoice before him. ["Jah" is a shortened form of "Jehovah"]

Psalms 119:5

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Message for 1900 13:17

The city of Pergamos was devoted to a sensual worship.

The Church of Thyatira

Rev 2:18-29

Material condition: Mental malpractice ("that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess," Rev 2:20)

Spiritual quality: Acknowledge God ("keepeth my works unto the end," Rev 2:26)

Blessing: God leads us in the right path ("I will give him the morning star," Rev 2:28)

Matthew 10:22

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

Matthew 10:16-42 Our Lord warned his disciples to prepare for persecution. They were to avoid all things which gave advantage to their enemies, all meddling with worldly or political concerns, all appearance of evil or selfishness, and all underhand measures.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Proverbs 3:6

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Misc. 222:15-17

The malicious mental argument and its action on the mind of the perpetrator, is fatal, morally and physically.

The Church of Sardis

Rev 3:1-6

Material condition: Lack of watchfulness ("If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief," Rev 3:3)

Spiritual quality: Watchfulness ("Be watchful," Rev 3:2)

Blessing: Protection ("they shall walk with me in white," Rev 3:4)

Man. 42:4

Alertness to Duty, SECT. 6. It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget or to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, - and justified or condemned.

S&H 324:13

Be watchful, sober, and vigilant

The Church of Philadelphia

Rev 3:7-13

Material condition: Lack of love ("which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie" Rev 3:9)

Spiritual quality: Love ("thou...hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Rev 3:8)

Blessing: God loves you ("I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." Rev 3:9)

Vincent's Word Studies

("behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:" Rev 3:8)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“more literally, a door opened. This is variously explained. Some refer it to the entrance into the joy of the Lord; others to the initiation into the meaning of scripture; others again to the opportunity for the mission-work of the Church.”

S&H p. 573, 15-18

...that God, the divine Principle of harmony, is ever with men, and they are His people. Thus man was no longer regarded as a miserable sinner, but as the blessed child of God.

The Church of Laodicea

Rev 3:14-22

Material condition: Lukewarmness, apathy, neutrality (“thou art neither cold nor hot,” “thou art lukewarm,” Rev 3:15-16)

Spiritual quality: Responsive, heedfulness (“buy of me gold tried in the fire,” “knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door,” Rev 3:18, 20)

Blessing: Present with God, oneness (“I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev 3:20)

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 21:4-6; 9-13

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

10 Jesus saith unto them, bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

S&H P. 39: 3-7

He (Jesus) overcame the world, the flesh, and all error, thus proving their nothingness. He wrought a full salvation from sin, sickness, and death.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

VISIONS

THE SEVEN STEPS OF THE METAPHYSICAL ANALYSIS OF THE REVELATION (Tomlinson, p. 121 & 239)

Vision One: The statement of the truth of being (Tomlinson, p. 140)

Vision Two: The denial of error and the affirmation of Truth (Tomlinson, p. 151)

Vision Three: Demonstrating the nothingness of matter and the allness of Spirit (Tomlinson, p. 168)

Vision Four: The first three steps prepare thought to receive the revelation of Christian Science (Tomlinson, p. 187)

Vision Five: Resistance to the revelation of Christian Science (Tomlinson, p. 203)

Vision Six: Resistance vanishes with the demonstration of Christian Science (Tomlinson, p. 224)

Vision Seven: The demonstrations of Christian Science make the truth of being manifest in consciousness (Tomlinson, p. 239)

VISION ONE

Rev 4-5:10

Summary: The throne, the sealed book, and the Lamb

1. He who sits on the throne is worshipped (Rev 4:1-11; "thou hast created all things," Rev 4:11)
 - o "A door was opened in heaven" o
 - One sat on a throne in heaven o 24
 - elders surround the throne
 - ☐ Moses' elders (Exodus 18: 13-26) o
 - Seven spirits of God o Sea of glass o The four
 - beasts
2. The Lamb takes the scroll from him who sits on the throne (Rev 5:1-10) o The Lamb
"hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Tomlinson, p.142

Spiritual sense discerns God

S&H, 467:9

It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one life, Truth, and Love.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

S&H, 285:17

The time has come for a finite conception of the infinite and of a material body as the seat of Mind to give place to a diviner sense of intelligence and its manifestations, - to the better understanding that Science gives of the Supreme Being, or divine Principle, and idea.

VISION TWO

Rev 5:11-8:1

Summary: Opening of the seven seals and the sealing of the servants

1. The Lamb and the one on the throne are praised (Rev 5:11-14)
2. First seal is opened and the white horse (Rev 6:1-2)
3. Second seal is opened and the red horse (Rev 6:3-4)
4. Third seal is opened and the black horse (Rev 6:5-6)
5. Fourth seal is opened and the pale horse (Rev 6:7-8)
6. Fifth seal is opened (Rev 6:9-11)
7. Sixth seal is opened (Rev 6:12-17)
8. 144,000 are sealed (Rev 7:1-8)
9. The great multitude in white robes (Rev 7:9-17)
10. Seventh seal is opened (Rev 8:1)

Tomlinson, p.150

The nothingness of matter and the allness of God (Error is disclosed; error is silenced)

Matthew 10:26

Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

Tomlinson, p. 151

The errors disclosed by Christ, Truth, in the order of the opening of the seals are

- (1) lust;
- (2) revenge;
- (3) covetousness ;
- (4) envy;
- (5) self-righteousness;
- (6) self-will;
- (7) self- ignorance.

The first four errors are presented by four horse- men; the fifth, by the slain for the Word of God; the sixth, by a mighty earthquake and darkness; and then, following the opening of the seventh seal, there is a calm. The seals are opened in the presence of the four great verities of being, —

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and omni-action, — and thus their nothingness is discerned. (See Tomlinson, pp. 87-88 "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. ")

Tomlinson, p. 153

Tomlinson presents a summary of the seven seals and the sealing of the servants

Kratzer, p.111 (Rev 7:1)

"The four winds of the earth" ...signify all destructive forces

The Great Multitude in White Robes - Revelation 7:17

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

S&H 337:14

Christian Science demonstrates that none but the pure in heart can see God, as the gospel teaches. In proportion to his purity is man perfect; and perfection is the order of celestial being which demonstrates Life in Christ, Life's spiritual ideal.

S&H 358: 15

Christ's vestures are put on only when mortals are "washed in the blood of the Lamb," we must walk in the way which Jesus marked out, if we would reach the heaven-crowned summit of Christian Science. (Rev. 7:14)

Pulpit Commentary (Rev 8:1)

The silence is typical of the eternal peace of heaven, the ineffable bliss...

VISION THREE

Rev 8:2-11:19

Summary: The seven angels with the seven trumpets, the three woes, the mighty angel with the little book, and the two witnesses

1. Seven angels are given the seven trumpets (Rev 8:2-6)
2. First angel sounded his trumpet, "earth tumultuous"¹ (Rev 8:7)
3. Second angel sounded his trumpet, "sea troubled"¹ (Rev 8:8-9)
4. Third angel sounded his trumpet "rivers poisoned"¹ (Rev 8:10-11)
5. Fourth angel sounded his trumpet, "sun darkened"¹ (Rev 8:12)
6. The eagle calls out, "woe, woe, woe" (Rev 8:13)
7. Fifth angel sounded his trumpet, "star fell with the key to open the bottomless pit"¹ (Rev 9:1)
8. The first woe, "out of the bottomless pit came locusts with power like scorpions" (Rev 9:2-12)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

9. Sixth angel sounded his trumpet, “four angels who are bound in the river Euphrates are released” (Rev 9:13-14)
10. The second woe, “four angels with fire, smoke and brimstone coming out of their mouths that kill like plagues and have tails like snakes” (Rev 9:15-21)
11. The mighty angel with the little book (Rev 10:1-11)
12. The two witnesses (Rev 11:1-14)
13. Seventh angel sounded his trumpet, “announcing the kingdom of Christ” (Rev 11:15) 14. The 24 elders worship God and third woe (Rev 11:16-19)²

Notes

1. Descriptions in quotes from Tomlinson
2. Hoyt: “the third woe to material thinking” (“destroy them which destroy the earth”)

Tomlinson, pp. 168-169

There is a lot to be found in the third vision. It would be helpful to read Tomlinson’s synopsis of the third vision. The last sentence of the synopsis,

Christ, Truth, proves that the spiritual understanding of
God and man is the final woe to materialism.

S&H 96:12-23

The material world is even now becoming the arena for conflicting forces. On one side, there will be discord and dismay; on the other side there will be Science and peace. The breaking up of material beliefs may seem to be famine and pestilence, want and woe, sin, sickness, and death, which assume new phases until their nothingness appears. These disturbances will continue until the end of error, when all discord will be swallowed up in spiritual Truth.

Hoyt, p.58

The declaration of Truth starts the self-destruction of all materialism

S&H 405: 19 only

This is sin’s necessity, - to destroy itself.

VISION FOUR

Rev 12:1-14:20

Summary: The woman, the dragon, the beasts, the Lamb, the three angels, and harvesting the earth

1. The woman and the dragon (Rev 12:1-17)
2. The beast out of the sea (Rev 13:1-10)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. The beast out of the earth (Rev 13:11-18)
4. The Lamb and the 144,000 (Rev 14:1-5)
5. The three angels (Rev 14:6-13)
6. Harvesting the earth and trampling the winepress (Rev 14:14-20)

Second Blessing, Rev 14:13

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

S&H 561:6-15

Because of his more spiritual vision, St. John saw an “angel standing in the sun.” The Revelator saw also the spiritual ideal as a woman clothed in light, a bride coming down from heaven, wedded to the Lamb of Love. To John, “the bride” and “the Lamb” represented the correlation of divine Principle and spiritual idea, God and His Christ, bringing harmony to earth.

S&H 561:22-31

The woman in the Apocalypse symbolizes generic man, the spiritual idea of God; she illustrates the coincidence of God and man as the divine Principle and divine idea. The Revelator symbolizes Spirit by the sun. The spiritual idea is clad with the radiance of spiritual Truth, and matter is put under her feet. The light portrayed is really neither solar nor lunar, but spiritual Life, which is “the light of men.” In the first chapter of the Fourth Gospel it is written, “There was a man sent from God... to bear witness of that Light.”

Isaiah 54:14

In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

A NEW SONG:

Rev 14:3

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne

Psalms 98:1

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

My. 166:21

So, my dear ones, let us together sing the old-new song of salvation, and let our measure of time and joy be spiritual, not material.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

VISION FIVE

Rev 15:1-18:24

Summary: Seven angels with seven plagues; seven bowls of wrath; doom of Babylon

1. Seven angels with seven plagues (Rev 15:1-8)
2. The seven bowls of wrath (Rev 16:1-21)
3. Babylon, the prostitute on the beast (Rev 17:1-18)
4. Lament over fallen Babylon (Rev 18:1-3)
5. Warning to escape Babylon's judgment (Rev 18:4-8)
6. Threefold woe over Babylon's fall (Rev 18:9-20)
7. The finality of Babylon's doom (Rev 18:21-24)

Third Blessing, Rev 16:15

Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Tomlinson, p. 203

"...the plagues of sense are overcome (1) through spiritual reflection; (2) by acknowledging the allness and all-power of Truth; (3) through love for and the demonstrations of Truth; (4) through the healing work of divine Love in Christian Science.

Tomlinson, p. 203

"The vials of wrath...produce different phases of self-destructive resistance."

Wisdom

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary, Rev 13:18

Spiritual wisdom is needed to solve the mystery of iniquity, so as not to be beguiled by it.

Pulpit Commentary, Rev 17:9

Verse 9. - And here is the mind which hath wisdom. Omit "and." Read, Here is the mind (or, meaning), etc. These words (as in Revelation 13:18) draw attention to the explanation which follows - or else that which precedes (cf. Revelation 13:18). They also make it appear that the explanation which the angel offers of the "mystery" is not one to be understood without some difficulty.

Doom of Babylon

Rev 18:21

Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Matthew Poole's Commentary. Rev 18:21

it shall be a total, utter ruin, from whence it shall never recover.

S&H P.469, 13-14

The exterminator of error is the great truth that God, good, is the *only* Mind,

VISION SIX

Rev 19:1-20:15

Summary: Babylon's fall, the wedding supper, the man on the white horse, the thousand years, judgment of Satan and the dead

1. Threefold hallelujah over Babylon's fall (Rev 19:1-10)
2. "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (Rev 19:9)
3. "behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Rev 19:11)
4. The man on the white horse and his army defeats the beast (Rev 19:11-21)
5. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." (Rev. 20:6)
6. Satan is bound for a thousand years (Rev 20:1-6)
7. Satan is released from prison; God sent fire and destroyed Satan and all who fought against Him (Rev 20:7-10)
8. The dead stand before God and are judged; Whoever was not found in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15)

Tomlinson, p. 226

Tomlinson describes the seven triumphs of Truth.

Rev. 6:2

And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers (Rev. 6:2)

The emblems —the crown and white horse—are obviously those of victory. The crown (stephanos) is the crown of triumph.

Rev. 19:11

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary (Rev. 19:11)

NOTES FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

19:11-21 Christ, the glorious Head of the church, is described as on a white horse, the emblem of justice and holiness. He has many crowns, for he is King of kings, and Lord of lords.

S&H 43:28-4

Love must triumph over hate. Truth and Life must seal the victory over error and death, before the thorns can be laid aside for a crown, the benediction follow, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and the supremacy of Spirit be demonstrated.

VISION SEVEN

Rev 21:1-22:5

Summary: A new heaven, a new earth, a new Jerusalem, The Bride of the Lamb, restored Eden

1. A new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21: 1-8)
2. The new Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb (Rev 21: 9-27)
3. Eden restored (Rev 22:1-5)

Webster: Demonstration, noun:

2. The highest degree of evidence; certain proof exhibited, or such proof as establishes a fact or proposition beyond a possibility of doubt, or as shows the contrary position to be absurd or impossible.

3. Indubitable evidence of the senses, or of reason; evidence which satisfies the mind of the certainty of a fact or proposition. Thus we hold that the works of nature exhibit demonstration of the existence of a God.

THE CONCLUSION

Rev 22:6-19

Summary: John and the Angel, Jesus

1. John and the Angel (Rev 22: 6-10)
2. Jesus (Rev 22: 11-18)

THE BENEDICTION

Rev 22:21-22

20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.