

**Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist - Chicago**  
**Readings for July 6, 2016**

HYMN 140 if on our daily course

By way of introduction — tonight's readings on the subject of "A New Heaven and Earth" offer a fresh look at the Creation Story ... a view where creation does not literally pass away, but is restored and renewed as part of the new heaven and the new earth of God's kingdom.

The readings are from the King James Version and New Revised Standard Version of the Bible as well as *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

PART ONE OF THREE

Excerpts of the second Creation Story from the Bible, Genesis 2 — Creation in a Garden

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.  
And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

The name of the first is Pison:  
And the name of the second river is Gihon:  
And the name of the third river is Hiddekel  
And the fourth river is Euphrates.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air;  
[Genesis 2: 1-19 KJV]

Joel — An Oracle of Salvation

Then the LORD became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

In response to his people the LORD said: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations. Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter - my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall

never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.  
[Joel 2:18-26 NRSV]

*From Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy*

Advancing spiritual steps in the teeming universe of Mind lead on to spiritual spheres and exalted beings. To material sense, this divine universe is dim and distant, gray in the sombre hues of twilight.  
[SH 513]

Physical science (so-called) is human knowledge, — a law of mortal mind, a blind belief, a Samson shorn of his strength. When this human belief lacks organizations to support it, its foundations are gone.

Having neither moral might, spiritual basis, nor holy Principle of its own, this belief mistakes effect for cause and seeks to find life and intelligence in matter, thus limiting Life and holding fast to discord and death.  
[SH 124]

We cannot build safely on false foundations. Truth makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away and "all things are become new." [SH 201]

The universe, like man, is to be interpreted by Science from its divine Principle, God, and then it can be understood; but when explained on the basis of physical sense and represented as subject to growth, maturity, and decay, the universe, like man, is, and must continue to be, an enigma.  
[SH 124]

As a material, theoretical life-basis is found to be a misapprehension of existence, the spiritual and divine Principle of man dawns upon human thought, and leads it to "where the young child was," — even to the birth of a new-old idea, to the spiritual sense of being and of what Life includes. Thus the whole earth will be transformed by Truth.  
[SH 191]

## PART TWO

### *Isaiah — The Glorious New Creation*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.  
[Isaiah 65: 17-25 NRSV]

### *From Science and Health*

God creates all forms of reality. His thoughts are spiritual realities. So-called mortal mind — being nonexistent and consequently not within the range of immortal existence — could not by simulating deific power invert the divine creation, and afterwards recreate persons or things upon its own plane.

Mind, joyous in strength, dwells in the realm of Mind. Mind's infinite ideas run and disport themselves. In humility they climb the heights of holiness. Moral courage is "the lion of the tribe of Juda," the king of the mental realm. Free and fearless it roams in the forest. Undisturbed it lies in the open field, or rests in "green pastures, . . . beside the still waters."

In the figurative transmission from the divine thought to the human, diligence, promptness, and perseverance are likened to "the cattle upon a thousand hills." They carry the baggage of stern resolve, and keep pace with highest purpose.  
[SH 513]

Nature voices natural, spiritual law and divine Love, but human belief misinterprets nature. Arctic regions, sunny tropics, giant hills, winged winds, mighty billows, verdant vales, festive flowers, and glorious heavens, — all point to Mind, the spiritual intelligence they reflect. The floral apostles are hieroglyphs of Deity. Suns and planets teach grand lessons. The stars make night beautiful, and the leaflet turns naturally towards the light.

In the order of Science, in which the Principle is above what it reflects, all is one grand concord.  
[SH 240]

In the Apocalypse it is written: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." In St. John's vision, heaven and earth stand for spiritual ideas, and the sea, as a symbol of tempest-tossed human concepts advancing and receding, is represented as having passed away.  
[SH 536]

## PART THREE

### *Revelation — The New Heaven and the New Earth*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem.  
[Revelation 21:1-2 NRSV]

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.  
[Revelation 22: 1– 5 NRSV]

*From the Glossary chapter in Science and Health*

In Christian Science we learn that the substitution of the spiritual for the material definition of a Scriptural word often elucidates the meaning of the inspired writer. On this account this chapter is added. It contains the metaphysical interpretation of Bible terms, giving their spiritual sense, which is also their original meaning.

[SH 579]

*Seven definitions*

River. Channel of thought.

Pison (river). The love of the good and beautiful, and their immortality.

Gihon (river). The rights of woman acknowledged morally, civilly, and socially.

Hiddekel (river). Divine Science understood and acknowledged.

Euphrates (river). Divine Science encompassing the universe and man; the true idea of God; a type of the glory which is to come; metaphysics taking the place of physics; the reign of righteousness.

Heaven. Harmony; the reign of Spirit; government by divine Principle; spirituality; bliss; the atmosphere of Soul.

Earth. A sphere; a type of eternity and immortality, which are likewise without beginning or end.

*And, in conclusion, two statements from Science and Health*

When we learn the way in Christian Science and recognize man's spiritual being, we shall behold and understand God's creation, — all the glories of earth and heaven and man.

[SH 264]

The Revelator tells us of "a new heaven and a new earth." Have you ever pictured this heaven and earth, inhabited by beings under the control of supreme wisdom?

[SH 91]

**HYMN 449** My life flows on in endless song

**HYMN 66** From these Thy children gathered in Thy name