Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

2021 FFCS Weekend Virtual Conference

Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

July 30, 2021

Tanner Johnsrud



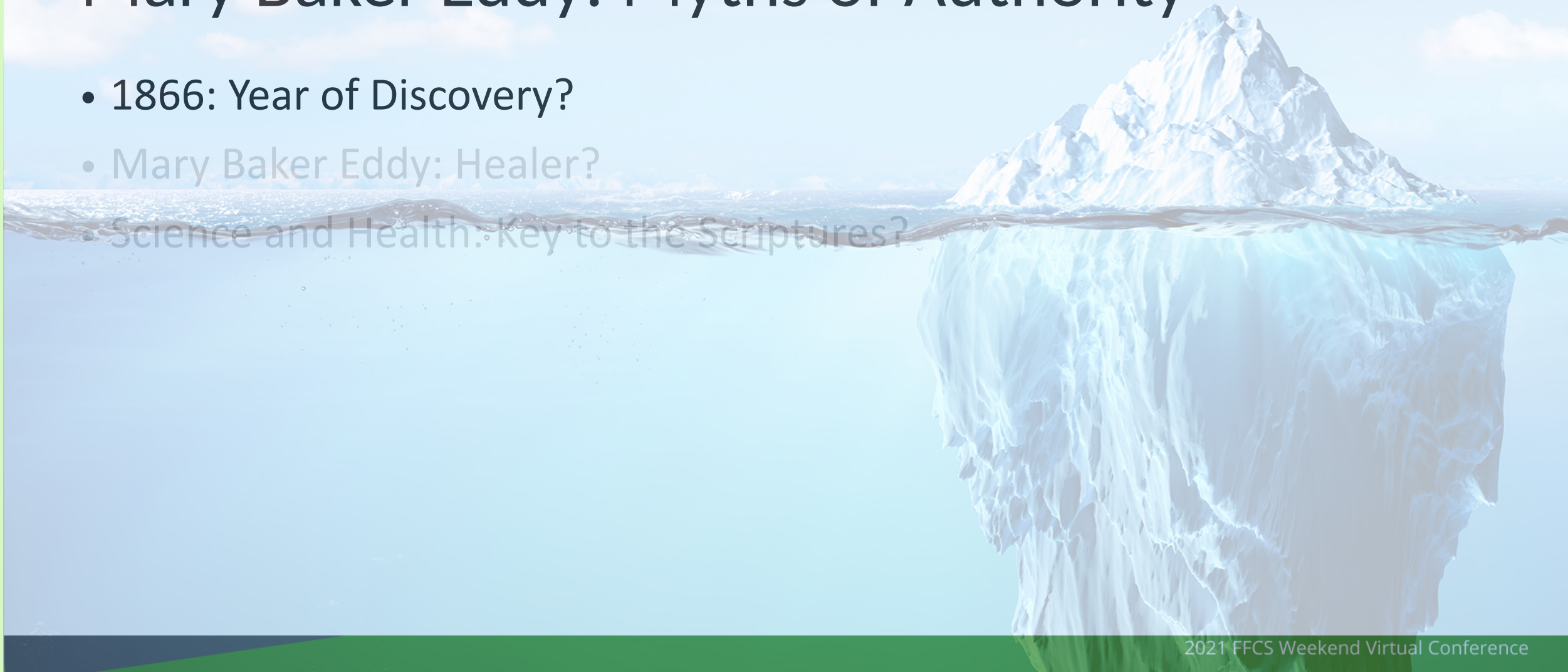
Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

- 1866: Year of Discovery?
- Mary Baker Eddy: Healer?
- Science and Health: Key to the Scriptures?



Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

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Traditional CS version of discovery



Plaque reads:

Mary Baker Eddy

1821-1910

Near this spot, on the evening of February 1, 1866, Mary Baker Eddy fell on the ice and was critically injured. Prayer and faith led to her healing, her writings, and the advent of Christian Science.

Claimed discovery in 1864?

4

may not open at once a new thought, and make it familiar. It has the task of a pioneer to hack away at the tall oak and cut the rough granite, leaving future ages to declare what has been done. We made our first discovery that science mentally applied would heal the sick, in 1864, and since then have tested it on ourselves and hundreds of others, and never found it fail to prove the statement herein made of it. The science of man alone can make him harmonious, unfold his utmost possibilities, and establish the perfection of man. To admit God the Principle of all being, and live in accordance with this Principle, is the Science of Life, but to reproduce the harmony of being, errors of personal sense must be destroyed, even as the science of music, must correct tones caught from the ear, to give the sweet concord of sound.

Science and Health, First Edition (1875) p. 4

Claimed discovery in 1864?

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hack away at the tall oaks and cut the rough granite, leaving future ages to declare what it has done. We made our first discovery of the adaptation of metaphysics to the treatment of disease about the year 1864; since then we have tested the Principle on ourselves and others, and never found it fail to prove the statement herein made of it. We must learn the science of Life to reach the perfection of man. To understand God as the Principle of all being, and to live in accordance with this Principle, is the Science of Life. But to reproduce this harmony of being, the error of personal sense must yield to science, even as the science of music corrects tones caught from the ear, and gives the sweet concord of sound. There are many theories of physic and theology,

Science and Health, Third Edition (1875), 2nd page of the Preface

Peel points to 1864

16. In the first three editions of *S&H* and in other early documents Mrs. Eddy gave that year as the date of her first glimpse of what she later called Christian Science, and her healing of Miss Mary Ann Jarvis in 1864 is cited in *S&H* today (p. 184 f.) as an example of metaphysical treatment. Only through a gradual process did she come to the recognition of her healing of February, 1866, as the great watershed in her spiritual development, though it is evident that elements of Christian Science were in her thought before that date and elements of Quimby's thought continued to influence her for several years afterward.

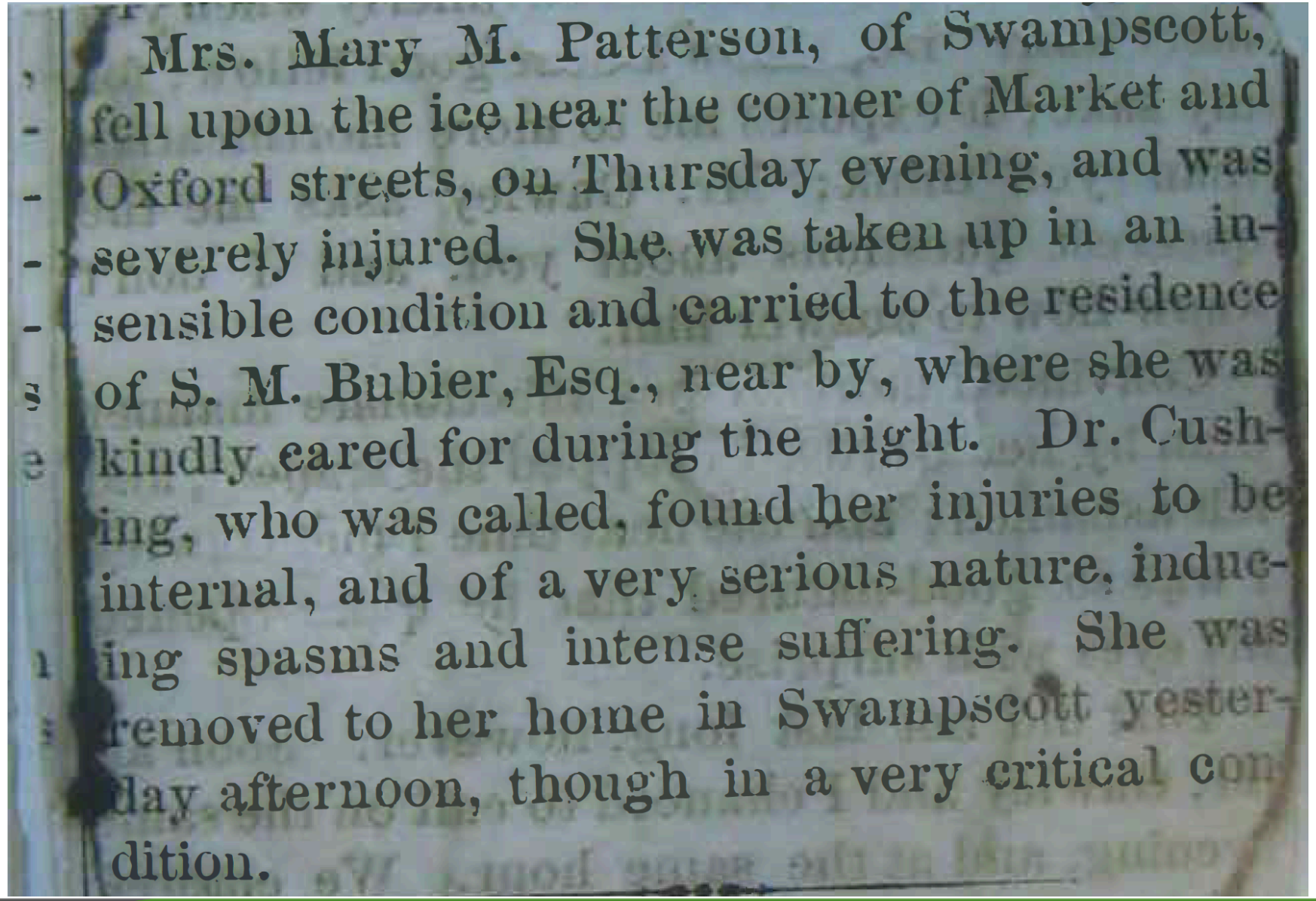
Robert Peel *Mary Baker Eddy: Years of Trial*, p. 342 n. 16

The Second Coming?

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.

Miscellany 181:27

Photo of newspaper of fall on ice



Mrs. Mary M. Patterson, of Swampscott, fell upon the ice near the corner of Market and Oxford streets, on Thursday evening, and was severely injured. She was taken up in an insensible condition and carried to the residence of S. M. Bubier, Esq., near by, where she was kindly cared for during the night. Dr. Cushing, who was called, found her injuries to be internal, and of a very serious nature, inducing spasms and intense suffering. She was removed to her home in Swampscott yesterday afternoon, though in a very critical condition.

Writing to Julius Dresser for help



Lynn February 15, 1866

Mr. Dresser,

Sir: I enclose some lines of mine in memory of our much-loved friend, which perhaps you will not think over-wrought in meaning: others must of course.

I am constantly wishing that you would step forward into the place he has vacated. I believe you would do a vast amount of good and are more capable of occupying his place than any other I know of.

Two weeks ago I fell on the sidewalk and struck my back on the ice, and was taken up for dead, came to consciousness amid a storm of vapours from cologne, chloroform, ether, camphor etc., but to find myself the helpless cripple I was before I saw Dr. Quimby.

The physician attending said I had taken the last step I ever should but in two days I got out of my bed alone, and will walk; but yet I confess I am frightened, and out of that nervous heat my friends are forming, spite of me, the terrible spinal affection from which I have suffered so long and hopelessly. . . . Now can't you help me? I believe you can. I write this with this feeling: I think I could help another in my condition if they had not placed their intelligence in matter. This I have not done, and yet I am slowly failing.

Won't you write me if you will undertake for me if I can get to you?. . .

Respectfully
Mary M. Patterson[25]



Gillian Gill *Mary Baker Eddy* p.158

Suing for damages

Two other documents unearthed around 1906 by the Milmine-*McClure's* team strongly indicated, first, that Mrs. Patterson's healing was far less complete than she later claimed, and, second, that the injuries she had sustained in her fall were quite minor. In a petition which she presented in late summer of 1866 to the city of Lynn Mrs. Patterson alleges that the city was responsible for the dangerous state of the streets, and seeks damages for "serious personal injuries from which she had little prospect of recovering." In the second document, a lengthy 1907 affidavit, which *McClure's* solicited, Dr. Alvin M. Cushing, at this point retired and delighted to be getting some visitors, denied that he had ever taken a serious view of Mrs. Patterson's condition or heard anything at the time about a miraculous cure. Dr. Cushing not only claimed to remember the case well but said he had retained his medical records for the period, which showed exactly when he had seen Mrs. Patterson and what remedies he had administered.

Gillian Gill *Mary Baker Eddy* p. 163

Changing the Origin Story

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

- August 17, 1881 - Third Edition of S&H says MBE discovered CS in 1864
- October 26, 2881 - Many of Mrs. Eddy's students charged her with "frequent ebullitions of temper, love of money, and the appearance of hypocrisy" and withdrew from the Association
- February 8, 1883 - Julius Dresser begins giving lectures and writing articles that allege that Mrs. Eddy got many of her ideas from the teachings of Phineas Quimby
- September 21, 1883 - 6th Edition of S&H says 1866 date of discovery

“The Genesis Manuscript

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

In 1866 she wrote in a private document that she was teaching Quimby’s ideas

- “The Bible In Its Spiritual Meaning” aka “The Genesis Manuscript”
- The Introductory Remarks pp. 1-5
- Mary Baker Eddy Library Accession Number: A09000

Changing the story

The human history needs to be revised, and the material record expunged.

Retrospection and Introspection 22:1

Historicity of Jesus' Resurrection

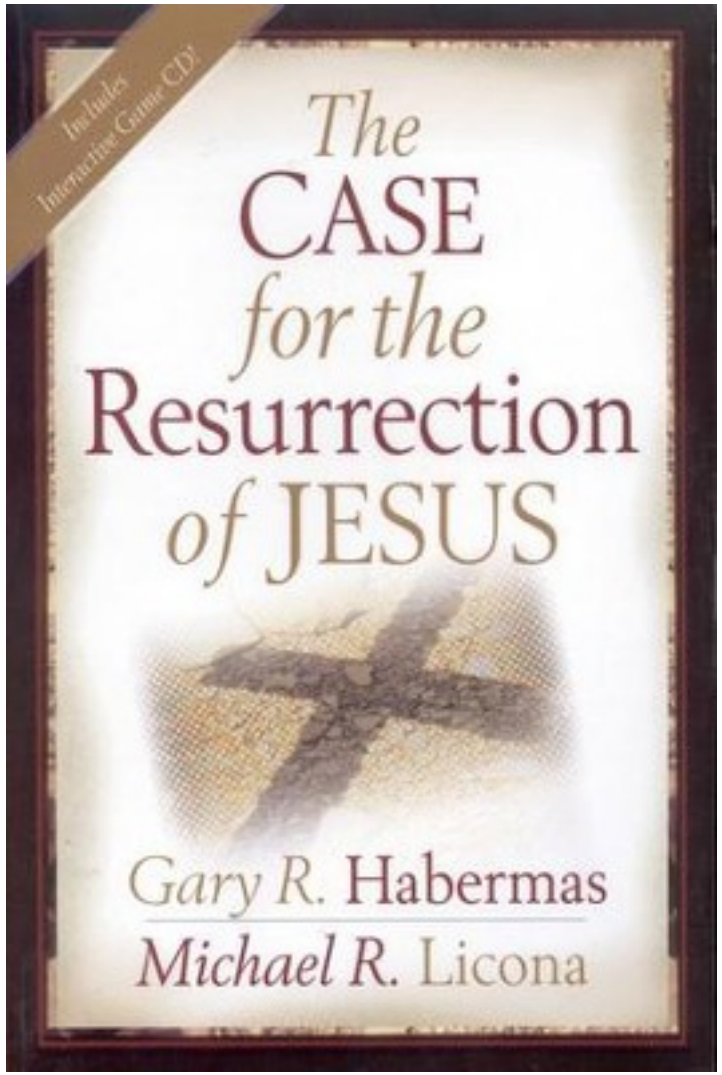
Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

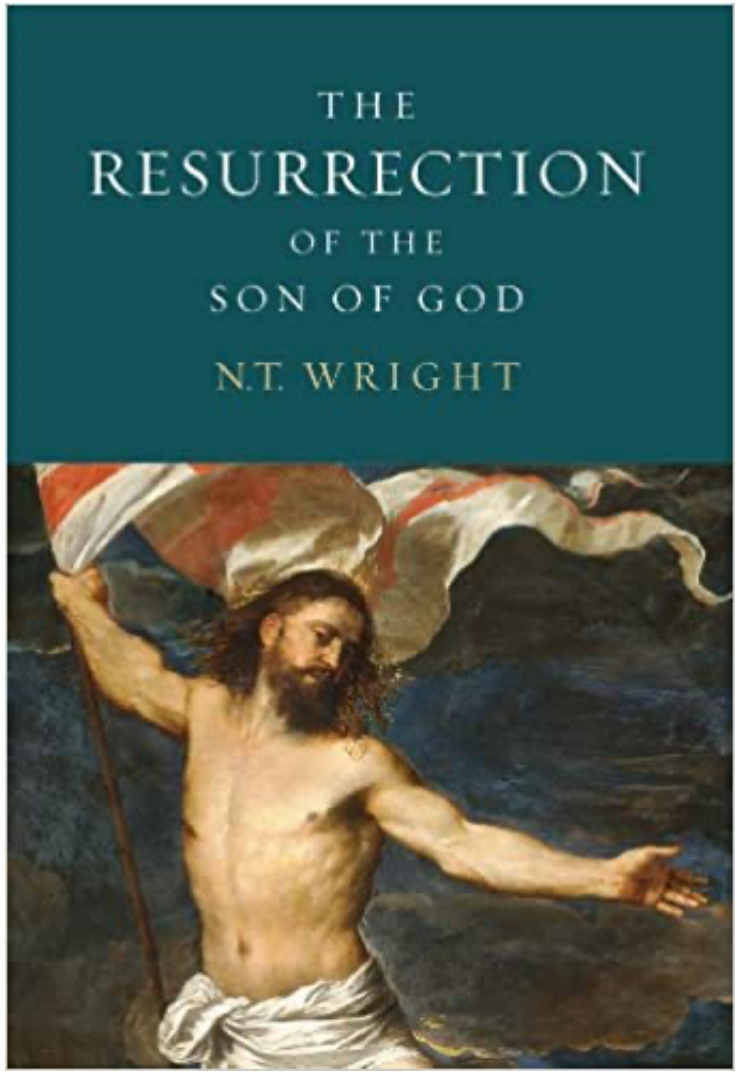
And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

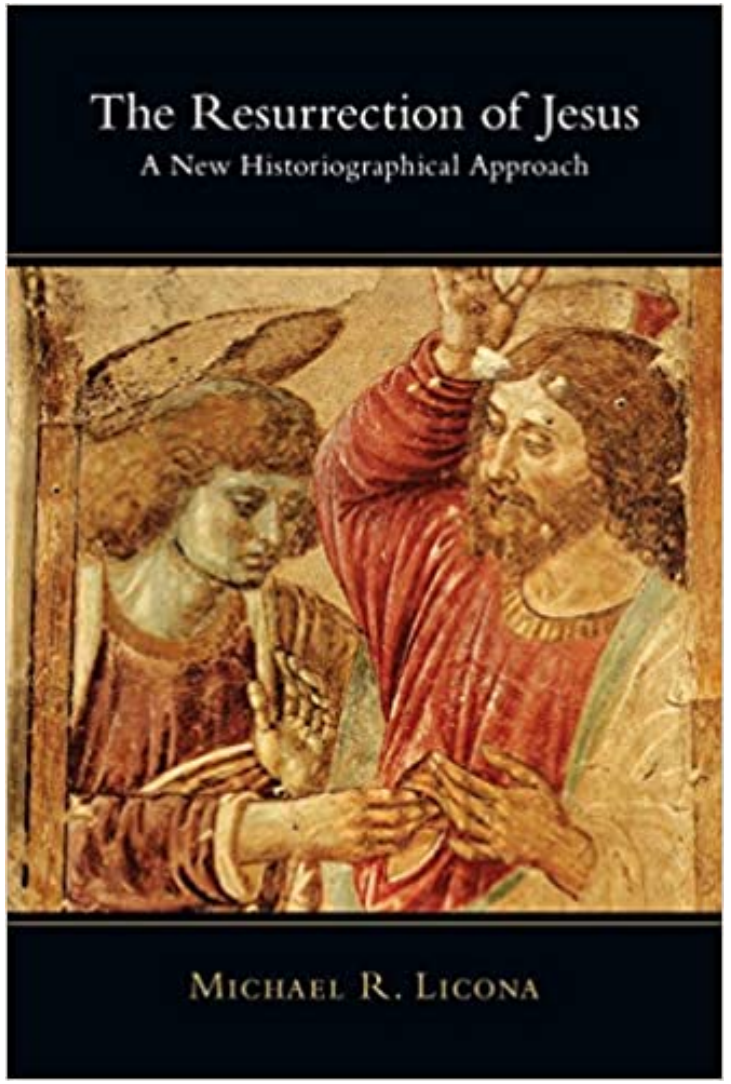
1 Corinthians 15:14

Historicity of Jesus' Resurrection

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists







Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

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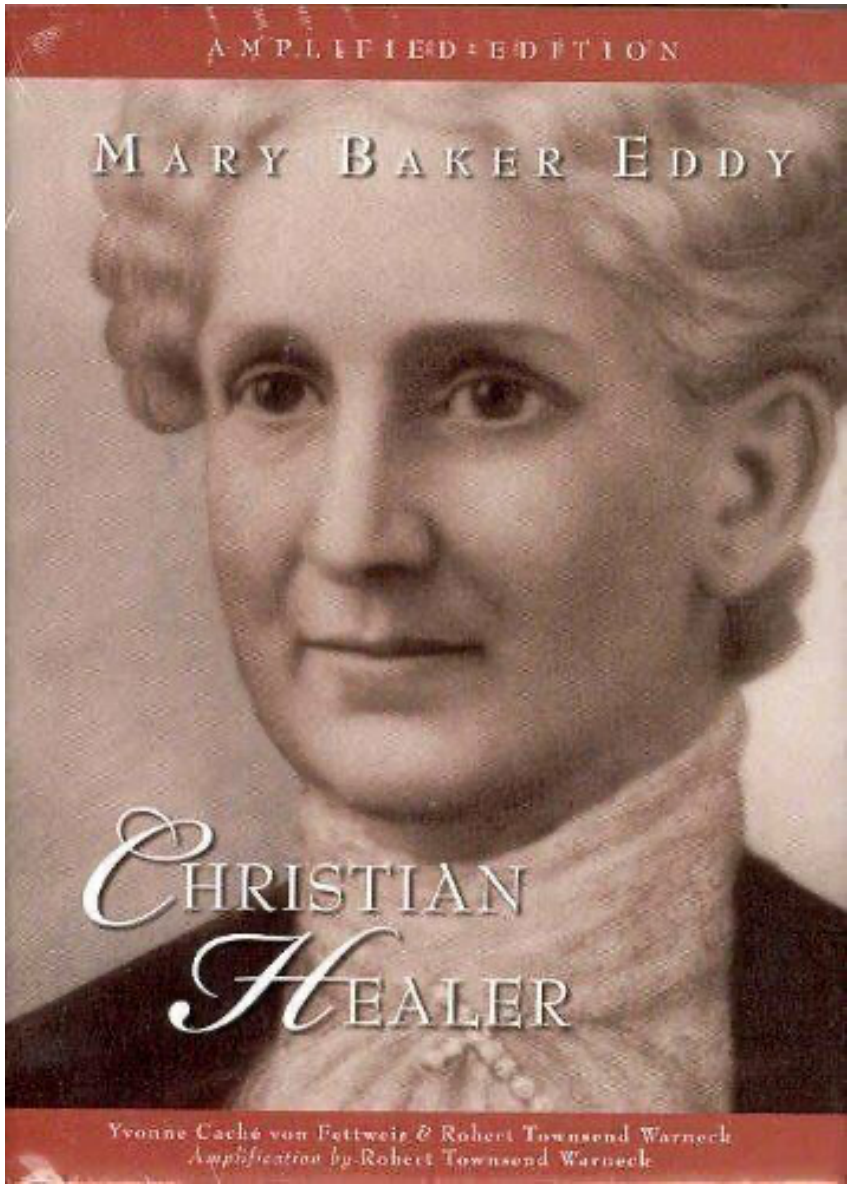


Healing as proof?

By thousands of well-authenticated cases of healing, she and her students have proved the worth of her teachings.

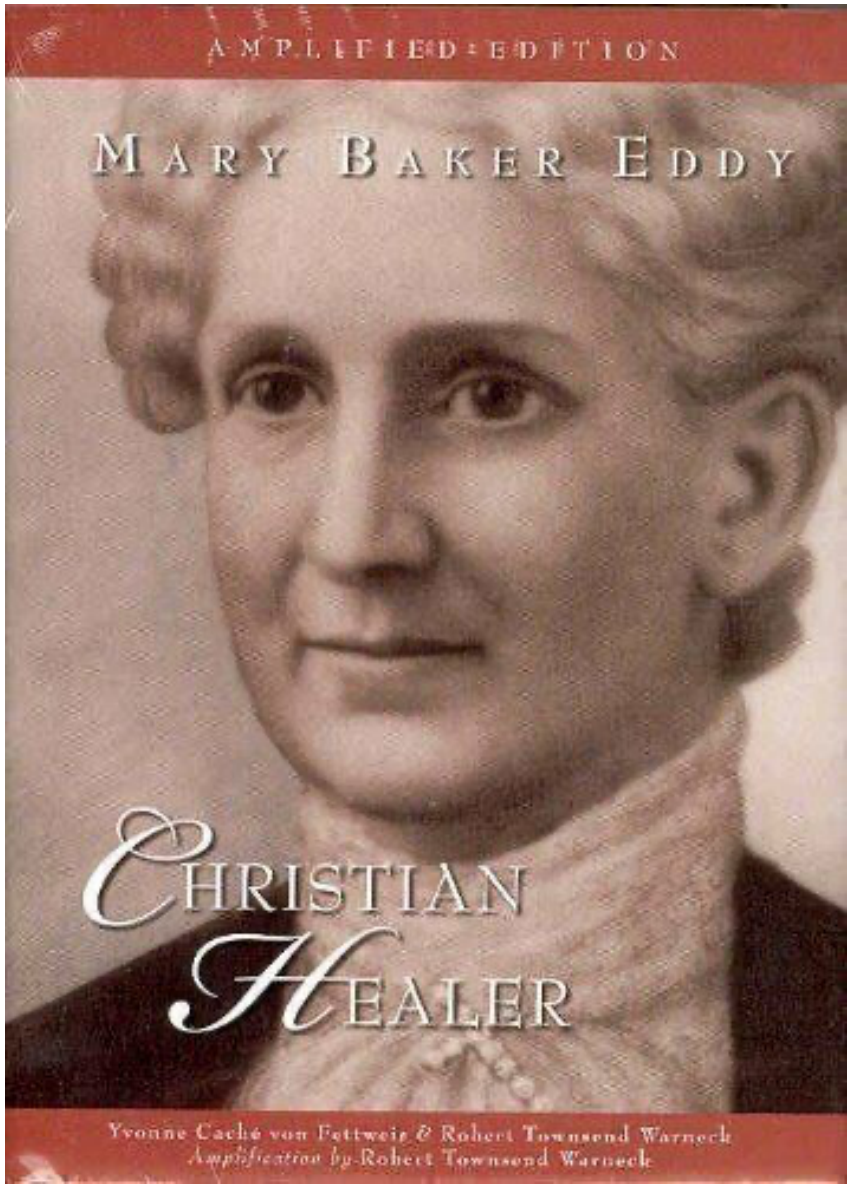
Science and Health x:15-17

Christian Healer?



Christian Healer?

Every healing Mrs. Eddy claims before 1864 can only be sourced to her.



Infant healed then named Mary?

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

Mary, who in later years recounted:

> Mrs. Smith, of Rumney, N.H., came to me with her infant, whose eyes were diseased, a mass of inflammation, neither pupil nor iris discernable. I gave the infant no drugs,—held her in my arms a few moments while lifting my thoughts to God, then returned the babe to her mother healed. In grateful memory thereof Mrs. Smith named her babe "Mary," and embroidered a petticoat for me.[17]

Robert Warneck *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* pp. 45-46

“Mrs. Eddy said…”

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Mrs. Baker would often share her experiences with Sarah Gault, a close friend and neighbor. Mrs. Eddy, recounting this particular incident to members of her household in later years, told them, “[Sarah Gault] was calling on my mother one afternoon and they were praying together.” Afterward her

Robert Warneck *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* pp. 28-29

With thoughts of her mother and of her own upbringing, Mrs. Eddy instructed her editor to write an article for *The Christian Science Journal* in 1889. Titled “Christian Science and its Revelator,” it includes this passage:

Ibid pp. 28-29

mother. Mrs. Eddy told her household in 1908 that she thought her mother should be spoken of in terms of Song of Solomon 8:5: “Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.”[5]

Ibid pp. 415

2. Abigail Baker was 37 when Mary was born. Adam Dickey recounted in his *Memoirs* (p. 132) that Mrs. Eddy told her household she felt the circumstances of her birth were similar to Isaac’s birth in the Bible, referring them to Hebrews 11:11. To another, Mrs. Eddy wrote about an exchange between her mother and Sarah Gault, her mother’s close friend: “When Mother was pregnant with me, she heard voices and said [to] Sister Gault, ‘I wish you would help me on a thing that troubles me. When I am about my work I am stopped and troubled with a voice “What shall be born of you shall be born of God.”’” (L15725)
3. Irving C. Tomlinson notes. Jotted down at the time or soon after Mrs. Eddy spoke, Irving C. Tomlinson’s notes were the basis for his book, *Twelve Years with Mary Baker Eddy.*

Even after Mary was born, Abigail Baker continued to ponder the thoughts that had come to her during the pregnancy. She told Sarah Gault, “. . . I don’t know what is to become of this child. While I bore her I had such sinful thoughts. … a voice seemed to say to me, ‘that which shall be born of thee shall bring about a great revolution.’”

In addition, while she was pregnant with Mary, a conviction had come over Abigail that the child she was carrying was holy and consecrated. Also a recurring voice insisted throughout the nine months, “You can heal the sick.” A11923; A11917; see also the Clara Shannon and Janette Weller reminiscences.

Ibid p. 546 nn. 1, 2

Hundreds of healings?

may not open at once a new thought, and make it familiar. It has the task of a pioneer to hack away at the tall oak and cut the rough granite, leaving future ages to declare what has been done. We made our first discovery that science mentally applied would heal the sick, in 1864, and since then have tested it on ourselves and hundreds of others, and never found it fail to prove the statement herein made of it. The science of man alone can make him harmonious, unfold his utmost possibilities, and establish the perfection of man. To admit God the Principle of all being, and live in accordance with this Principle, is the Science of Life, but to reproduce the harmony of being, errors of personal sense must be destroyed, even as the science of music, must correct tones caught from the ear, to give the sweet concord of sound.

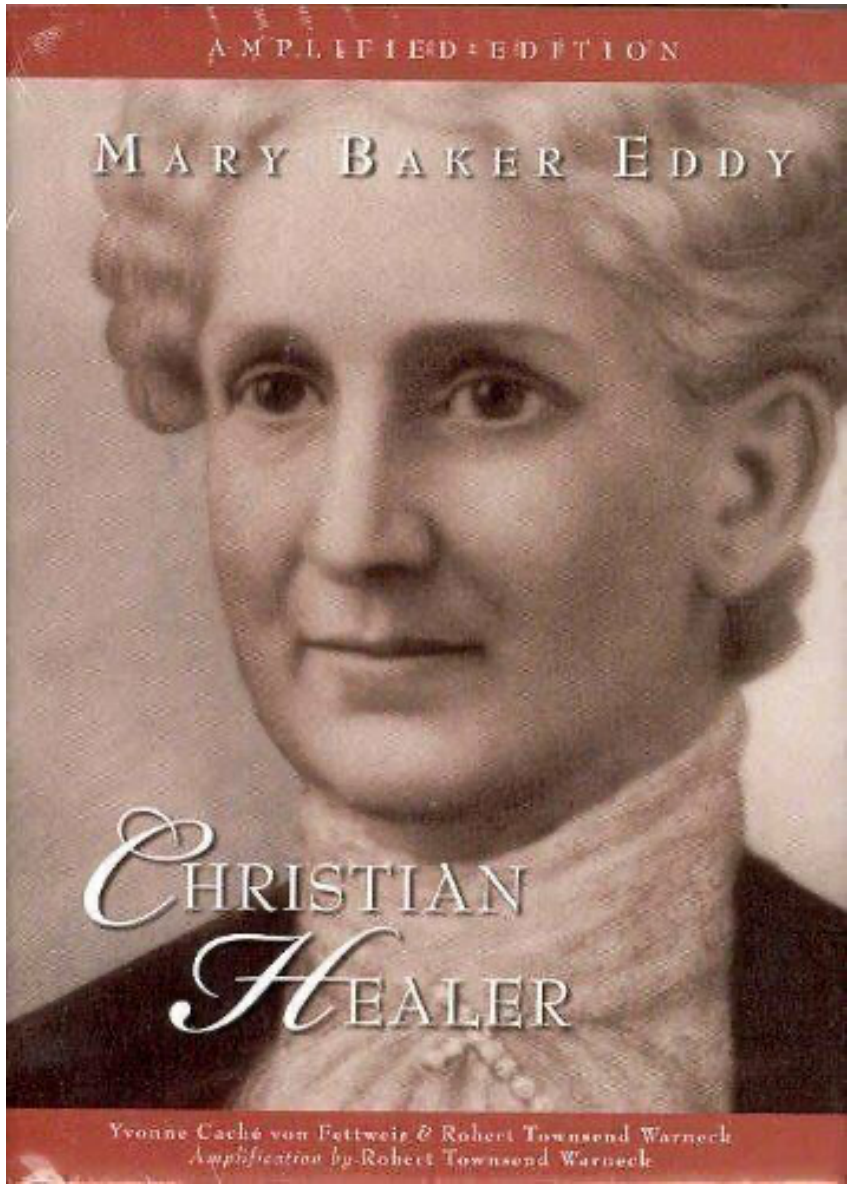
Science and Health, First Edition (1875) p. 4

Christian Healer?

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

64 healings claimed by Mrs. Eddy in later decades between 1864-1875

But over 93% of these alleged healings have no corroboration whatsoever

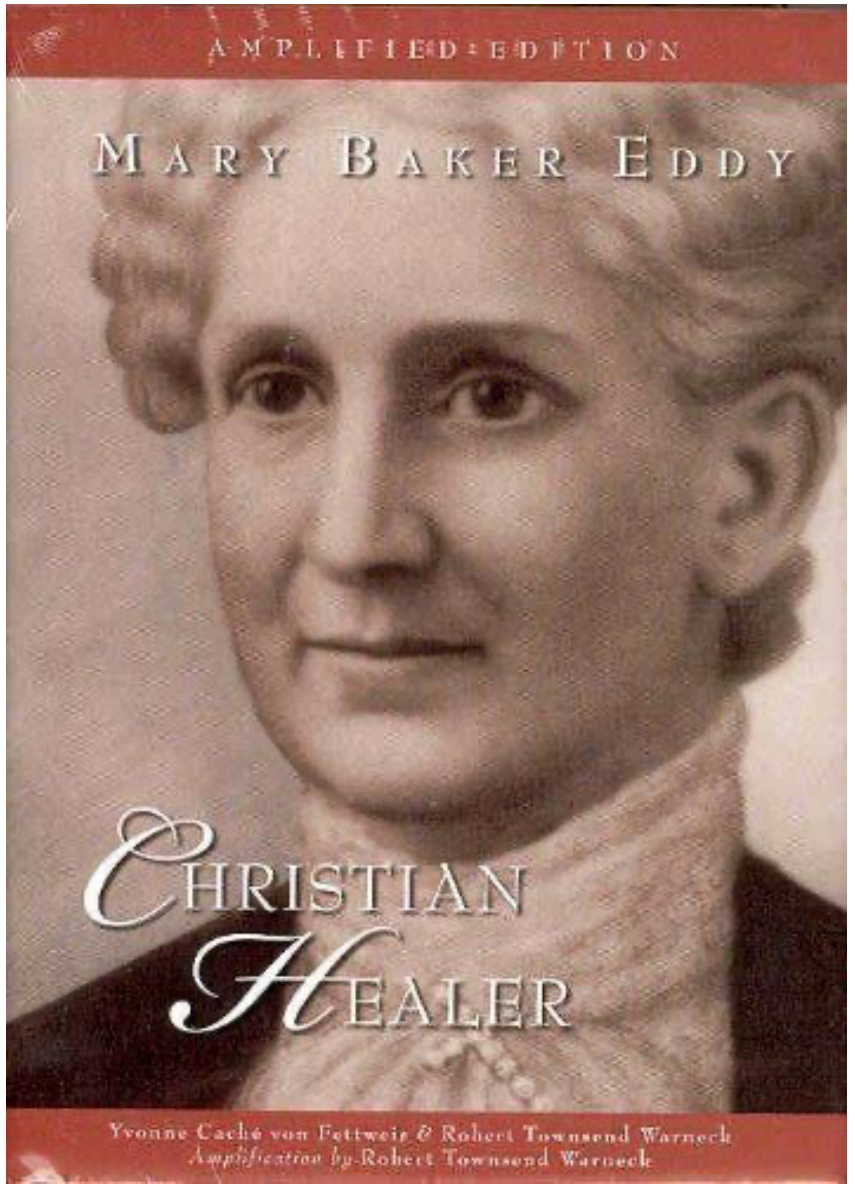


Christian Healer?

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

Only 4 inconclusive claims of corroboration…

…including from someone who said at the time she said she had gotten it all from Quimby



She said it was Quimby's system

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

Lucy Wentworth, now Mrs. Arthur L. Holmes, was about seventeen years of age when Mrs. Glover left her mother's house. Mrs. Holmes, who still lives in Stoughton, says that she well remembers Mrs. Glover's visit, and that she was teaching her mother a system of mental healing she said she had learned from Dr. Quimby.

"It wasn't safe for anybody to say anything to me against Mrs. Glover," says Mrs. Holmes. "She spent all her time here teaching my mother her new science. I was around her constantly, would rather be with her than any one else, and I often used to hear her say, 'I learned this from Dr. Quimby.' It is one of the distinct recollections of my childhood."

Mr. Charles O. Wentworth, now of Avon, Mass., says he, too, well remembers Mrs. Eddy's visit during the years 1868, 1869, and 1870, and that he many times heard her say she had learned her mental science system from Dr. Quimby. He says she avowed it openly, and always spoke of it as Dr. Quimby's system.

Mr. Horace T. Wentworth, who was married, and so not living with his parents, but who was often at their house, adds his positive testimony. He says: "Never at any time during the years she was at our house, from 1868 to 1870, did Mrs. Glover ever give the slightest hint that anyone other than Dr. Quimby had had any share in the origin of the system of mental healing she was teaching my mother. It could not then have entered her mind to claim it for herself. That was an

Frederick Peabody, *Complete Exposure of Eddyism* (1904) p. 14

Creative Manipulations of the Past

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

"…it seems to me important not only to acknowledge her tendency to engage in creative manipulations of the past but also to evaluate how far this practice served her as a religious leader."

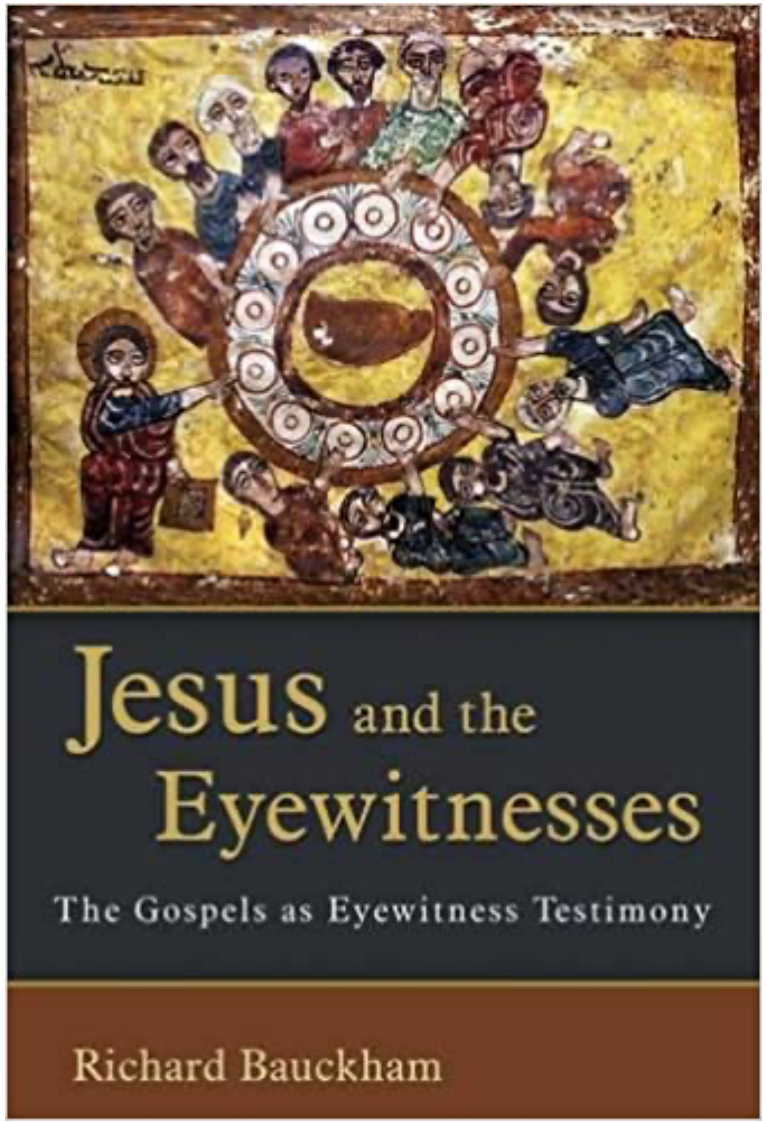
Gillian Gill *Mary Baker Eddy* p. 165

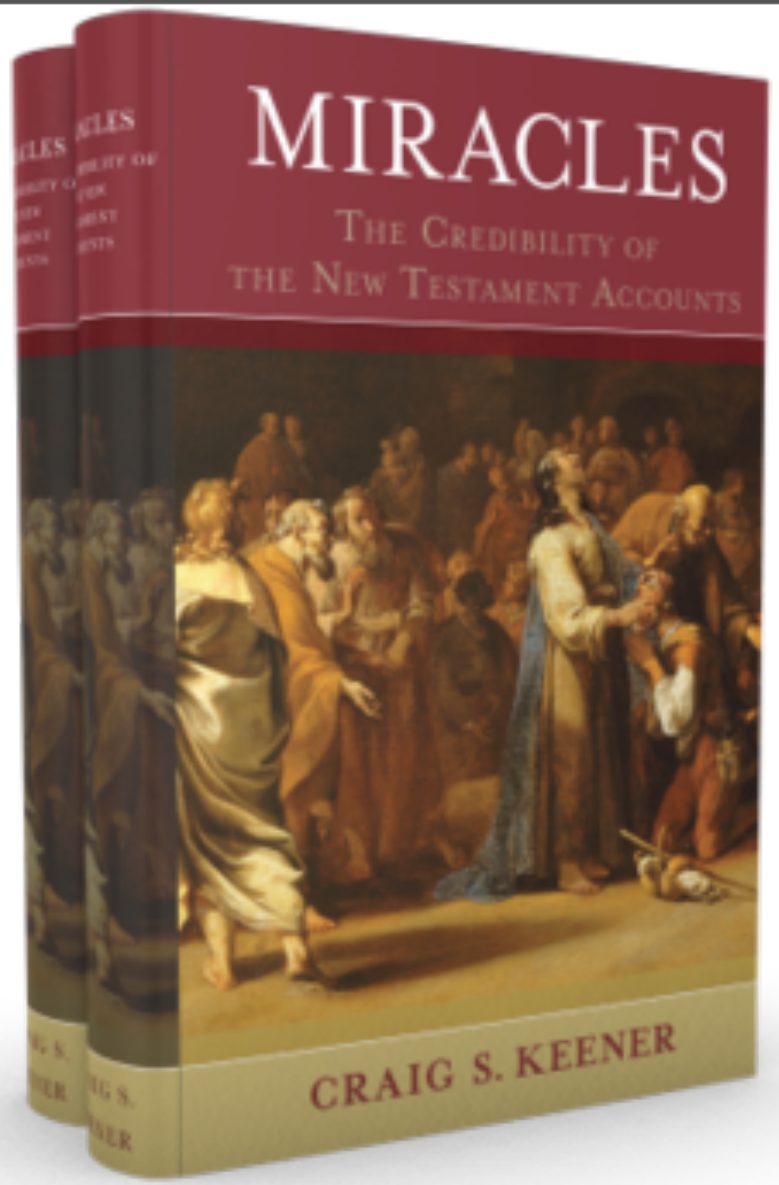
Eyewitness Evidence

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16


Jesus and the Eyewitnesses
The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony
Richard Bauckham


MIRACLES
The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts
CRAIG S. KEENER

MBE doesn't take patients

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

> [1] The author takes no patients, but takes students in the treatment of disease through mind. Her tuition per pupil is $300. She has

Science and Health 3rd Edition (1881) p. 7

Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

- 1866: Year of Discovery?
- Mary Baker Eddy: Healer?
- Science and Health: Key to the Scriptures?



Science and Health in Revelation?

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

CHAPTER XVI

THE APOCALYPSE

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. — REVELATION.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. — PSALMS.

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. To mortal sense Science seems at first obscure, abstract, and dark; but a bright promise crowns its brow. When understood, it is Truth's prism and praise. When you look it fairly in the face, you can heal by its means, and it has for you a light above the sun, for God "is the light thereof." Its feet are pillars of fire, foundations of Truth and Love. It brings the baptism of the Holy Ghost, whose flames of Truth were prophetically described by John the Baptist as consuming error.

The new Evangel

This angel had in his hand "a little book," open for all to read and understand. Did this same book contain the revelation of divine Science, the "right foot" or dominant power of which was upon the sea, — upon elementary, latent error, the source of all error's visible forms? The angel's left foot was upon the earth; that is, a secondary power was exercised upon visible error and audible sin. The "still, small voice" of scientific thought reaches over continent and ocean to the globe's remotest bound. The inaudible voice of Truth is, to the human mind, "as when a lion roareth." It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear. It arouses the "seven thunders" of evil, and stirs their latent forces to utter the full diapason of secret tones. Then is the power of Truth demonstrated, — made manifest in the destruction of error. Then will a voice from harmony cry: "Go and take the little book. . . . Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey." Mortals, obey the heavenly evangel. Take divine Science. Read this book from beginning to end. Study it, ponder it. It will be indeed sweet at its first taste, when it heals you; but murmur not over Truth, if you find its digestion bitter. When you approach nearer and nearer to this divine Principle, when you eat the divine body of this Principle, — thus partaking of the nature, or primal elements, of Truth and Love, — do not be surprised nor discontented because you must share the hemlock cup and eat the bitter herbs; for the Israelites of old at the Paschal meal thus prefigured this perilous passage out of bondage into the El Dorado of faith and hope.

Truth's volume

The twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse, or Revela-



Major S&H Revisions

- 1st Edition - 1875
- 2nd Edition - 1878
- 3rd Edition - 1881
- 6th Edition - 1883
- 16th Edition - 1886
- 50th Edition - 1891
- 226th Edition - 1902
- 1907 Edition - 1907
- Last Edition - 1910

The Second Coming?

Some modern exegesis on the prophetic Scriptures cites 1875 as the year of the second coming of Christ. In that year the Christian Science textbook, “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures,” was first published.

Message for 1900 6:28-2

Man as God in the 1st Edition

and immortal. To become less sense and more Soul, is the recipe for beauty; but to reach its standard we must put all sin, sickness and sorrow under the feet of our God-being, and rise superior to them; retreat from the belief of pain or pleasure in the body, to the unchanging quiet and glorious freedom of impersonal bliss. The embellishments of person are a poor

Science and Health First Edition (1875), p. 212

Man as God in the 1st Edition

being is acknowledged. \The final understanding that we are \Spirit must come, and we might as well improve our time in solving the so-called mysteries from this Principle. At present we know not what we are, but hereafter \we shall be found \Love, Life, and Truth, became we understand them. Do you

Science and Health First Edition (1875), p. 77

Man as God in the 1st Edition

death will make him harmonious and immortal, for it will not; we advance to Life understandingly, therefore we cannot step at once from death to Life, or from matter to Spirit. Only as we understand the Principle of being, and reach perfection, are we Spirit, and eternal.

Death cannot advance man but one step towards a higher existence, insomuch as it changes not his belief but in one thing, namely, that he died, and of the disease he supposed was killing him. Mortal man is the same after as before the change called death; his body is the same belief of man, the same supposed personal sense, Substance in matter, and Life in the body, as before death; and so long as this error remains, mind being the same, the body remains mortal. We are never Spirit until we are God; there are no individual "spirits." Until we find Life Soul, and not sense, we are not sinless, harmonious, or undying.

We become Spirit only as we reach being in God; not through death or any change of matter, but mind, do we reach Spirit, lose sin and death, and gain man's immortality; hence the need to commence Life's lesson to-day. We gain no higher

Science and Health First Edition (1875), p. 77

Man as God in the 1st Edition

The Jews' determination to recognize God only as person and a king, has not forsaken this age; nor have our creeds and ritualism in other respects quite washed their hands of Rabbinical error. To-day echoes back the cry of bygone centuries: "Crucify him that maketh himself as God," Spirit, and let matter have dominion over man. Because Jesus understood God better than did the Rabbis, he arrived at the conclusion in advance of them he was Spirit and not matter, and that these never blend; also, that there is but one Spirit, or Intelligence, therefore but one God, one Life, Love and Truth. All forms of belief deny this in the main, and contend that Intelligence is both God and man, that there are two separate entities or beings exercising antagonistic powers; also, that matter controls Spirit, that man is both matter and Spirit, and the supreme Being is God and man; also, that a third person named devil, is another Intelligence and power, and that these three different personages, viz., God, man, and devil blend in one person. When we possess a true sense of our oneness with God, and learn we are Spirit alone, and not matter, we shall have no such opinions as these, but will triumph over all sickness, sin, and death, thus proving our God-being. That we are Spirit, and Spirit is God, is undeniably true, and judging by its fruits, (the rule our Master gave) we should say this is not

Science and Health First Edition (1875), p. 155

The meaning of Habakkuk?

In common justice, we must admit that God will not punish man for doing what He created man capable of doing, and knew from the outset that man would do. God is “of purer eyes than to behold evil.” We sustain Truth, not by accepting, but by rejecting a lie.

Science and Health 357:1

Greek and Hebrew scholar?

From my brother Albert I received lessons in the ancient tongues, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Retrospection and Introspection 10:8–10

Greek and Hebrew scholar?

XVI. That the word Adam signifies error and not man. Adam is from the Latin, demens meaning "madness," "to undo," "to spoil," and the word should have been written, as it was originally rendered, "A damn."

Science and Health Second Edition (1878), pp. 145,146

Greek and Hebrew scholar?

XVI. That the word Adam signifies error and not man. Adam is from the Latin, demens meaning "madness," "to undo," "to spoil," and the word should have been written, as it was originally rendered, "A damn."

Science and Health Second Edition (1878), pp. 145,146

suicides, hastening toward death in pursuit of life. The word Adam, divided into two syllables, and reading A damn, indicates more closely the character and the curse that the divine Spirit or mother of man bestowed upon it.

Science and Health Third Edition Vol. 2 (1881), pp. 128

Greek and Hebrew scholar?

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

XVII. The name Adam is from the Hebrew *adamah*, signifying the *red color of the ground*, *dust*, *nothingness*. The word Adam should be regarded as identical with the Latin *dæmon*. Originally demons were not always considered as evil beings, but as partly good, though now the word is used exclusively of harmful and mischievous spirits. Somewhat in this way ought Adam to be thought of: as *a dam*, an obstruction, as error opposed to Truth, — as standing for that which is accursed, spoiled, or undone. Jehovah pronounced matter accursed, from whence error sprang, and blessed the earth "for man's sake." From this it follows that Adam was not the ideal man. The ideal man was revealed in due time, as Jesus the Christ.

Science and Health 37th Edition (1888), p. 381

Greek and Hebrew scholar?

XXIX. The word *Adam* is from the Hebrew *adamah,* signifying the *red color of the ground, dust, nothingness.* Divide the name Adam into two syllables, and it reads, *a dam,* or obstruction. This suggests the thought of something fluid, of mortal mind in solution. It further suggests the thought of that "darkness . . . upon the face of the deep," when matter or dust was deemed the agent of Deity in creating man, — when matter, as that which is accursed, stood opposed to Spirit. Here *a dam* is not a mere play upon words; it stands for obstruction, error, even the supposed separation of man from God, and the obstacle which the serpent, sin, would impose between man and his creator. The dissection and definition of words, aside from their metaphysical derivation, is not scientific. Jehovah declared the ground was accursed; and

Adam not ideal man

Science and Health 338:12-27

Adam = ???

- Adam is from the Latin demens meaning ‘madness,’ ‘to undo,’ ‘to spoil,’
- Adam should have been written “a damn”
- Adam was originally rendered “a damn”
- Adam is from the Hebrew adamah, signifying the red color of the ground, dust, nothingness
- Adam is identical with the “Latin” dœmon
- Adam signifies “a dam” - an obstruction
- Adam represents error, an obstruction, a separation of God and man

…in Christian Science there are no discords nor contradictions...

Science and Health 192:1-2

If you don’t get it, it’s your fault

Fellowship of Former Christian Scientists

“It is only a spiritual not an intellectual darkness that causes the human reason to reject this highest revelation of God”

Mary Baker Eddy to William I. Gill November 26, 1886. Accession L0255. (Advice to Healers Vol. 1, p. 61)

Making it Up

Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick.

Science and Health 476:32–4

Making it Up

“How do you know that there ever was such a man as Christ Jesus?”

He would have continued with a long argument, framed from his ample fund of historical knowledge, but I stopped him.

“Now, Mr. Wiggin,” I said, “you have broken our agreement. I do not find my authority for Christian Science in history, but in revelation. If there had never existed such a person as the Galilean Prophet, it would make no difference to me. I should still know that God's spiritual ideal is the only real man in His image and likeness.”

(The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany, Mary Baker Eddy, pp. 318:16–18, 25–4)

Don’t question MBE!

Because you cannot walk on the water and raise the dead, you have no right to question the great might of divine Science in these directions. Be thankful that Jesus, who was the true demonstrator of Science, did these things, and left his example for us.

Science and Health 329:7–12 (to 1st .)

Why did Jesus actually come?

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

Mary Baker Eddy: Myths of Authority

- 1866: Year of Discovery?
- Mary Baker Eddy: Healer?
- Science and Health: Key to the Scriptures?

