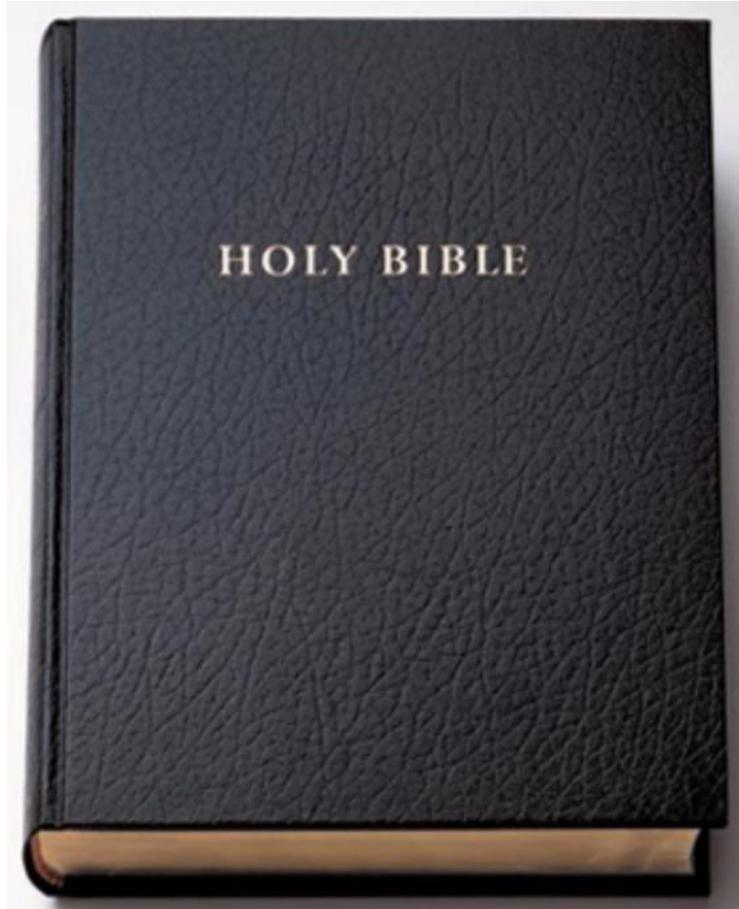


King James Bible Study



A Study Guide On
Christian Science

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Christian Science

I) BACKGROUND

1) Past

1. The founder of Christian Science was Mary Baker Eddy, born on a New Hampshire farm in 1821 to Mark and Abigail Baker
2. Although her parents were strict Calvinistic Congregationalists, Mary soon rejected the teachings of predestination and original sin
3. At the age of eight, she began to hear voices calling her by name; she thought it was her mother, but each time she went to her mother, her mother denied having called her
4. One day, reminiscent of 1 Samuel 3:9-10, Mary responded to the voice, “speak Lord, for thy servant heareth”, and the voices ceased to address her in the material senses from that day forward
5. Mary Baker's young life was fraught with emotional and physical illnesses, and eating disorders
 - At the age of 12, she had a heated dispute with her father over the subject of predestination and developed a serious fever
 - While her mother bathed her to bring down the fever, she told Mary to pray and lean on God’s love
 - Mary prayed and was immediately healed of her fever, claiming that the “horrible decree of predestination had forever lost it’s power” over her
6. Mary married three times and was widowed twice
 - Her first husband, George W. Glover, died in 1843, seven months after they were married, and left her in such an emotional and unstable condition that she began to take morphine as medication

- Her second marriage, to a dentist named Daniel M. Patterson in 1853, ended in divorce when he abandoned her
 - Her third and last marriage was to Asa G. Eddy when Mary was 56 years old
7. In 1862, when she was still married to Daniel Patterson, Mary went to Portland, Maine and committed herself to the care of a Dr. Phineas P. Quimby for treatment of "spinal inflammation"
 8. Phineas P. Quimby was a self-professed healer who used hypnosis and the power of suggestion to "cure" his patients; he called his ideas "The science of Christ" and "Christian Science"
 9. Mary became an enthusiastic follower of Quimby when in November of that same year she claimed that he had healed her of her infirmity; she even went as far as to write the local newspaper praising him and comparing him to Jesus Christ
 10. Mary Baker Eddy's "discovery" of Christian Science occurred between 1866 and 1870
 - In February 1866, she fell on a slippery sidewalk in Lynn, Massachusetts and suffered a spinal injury
 - The attending physician, Dr. Alvin Cushing, supposedly pronounced her "incurable" and gave her three days to live
 - On the third day, she asked for her Bible and opened it to Matthew 9:2; after she read the passage, she professed to be immediately healed
 - Dr. Cushing denied under oath in a 1,000-word statement that he ever believed or said that Mrs. Eddy was in a precarious physical condition
 - Eddy later filed a claim for money against the city citing that she was still suffering from the effects of the fall, but she would eventually withdraw her claim (some believe she filed the claim under pressure)

from her husband, Daniel Patterson, and not because she had lingering effects from the fall)

- Mary withdrew from society and devoted the next three years to Bible study and the discovery of “Christian Science”
- Through her study of the Bible, she claimed she found healing power through a higher sense of God as Spirit and man as God’s spiritual image and likeness
- She was convinced that because Jesus did not use any therapies or medicines to heal, that all illness could be healed if one completely rejected conventional and material methods of treatment and embraced the higher sense of God

11. Mrs. Eddy began teaching from the *Quimby Manuscripts* from 1867-1870 making her own "corrections" along the way

12. Mrs. Eddy went to Lynn, Massachusetts and in 1875, she completed her book *Science And Health* for which she claimed divine revelation; the *Key to the Scriptures* added in 1883

13. On April 12, 1879, the Christian Scientist Association met in Charlestown, Massachusetts and upon motion of Mrs. Eddy voted to “organize a church designed to commemorate the word and works of our Master, which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing” (*Manual Of The Mother Church, Historical Sketch, 17*)

14. In June 1879, the charter was obtained and Mrs. Eddy accepted the call to be pastor of the 26-member Church

15. Many at the time drew comparisons to the teachings of Christian Science with that of Hinduism (e.g.- matter and suffering are not real and healing can only come when this is realized)

16. Some Hindu writers even said that Eddy was a student of the Hindu scriptures and took most of her ideas from Hindu philosophy

17. Between the 24th and 33rd editions of *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Eddy herself admitted there was harmony between Vedanta philosophy and Christian Science, quoting passages from the English version of the Bhagavad-Gita
18. The Church officially changed its name to the *First Church of Christ Scientist* on September 23, 1892
19. The *Manual Of The Mother Church* was published in 1895 establishing the procedures for church government
20. As of 1882 there were only 50 people that Mrs. Eddy could call "followers", but her dedication to teaching and propagating her supposed divine revelations resulted in the establishment of over 400 "societies" and a 900% growth in membership by 1896
21. Mrs. Eddy insisted on being called "Mother" and issued "injunctions" demanding her followers to circulate and sell her published works under threat of excommunication
22. Although she professed not to believe in material things, she encouraged "contributions" from her followers and became a very wealthy woman
23. Although Mrs. Eddy believed that death was an illusion, she died on December 3, 1910 never having chosen a successor; she remains the *Pastor Emeritus* of the First Church of Christ, Scientist

2) Present

1. The headquarters (or "Mother Church") for the Church of Christ, Scientist is located in Boston, Massachusetts

2. Church officers consist of a President Emeritus, a Board of Directors, a President, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and two Readers
3. The five-member Board of Directors is responsible for appointing the President, Clerk, Treasurer, and two lay Readers (located at the Mother Church in Boston), but all officer positions, including the Board of Directors, must be approved by the President Emeritus, which according to the official Church website (www.christianscience.com) is Mary Baker Eddy
4. There are approximately 2,000 functioning "societies" (i.e.- local, democratically run branches) in 75 countries
5. Actual membership can only be estimated since the Church Manual says, "Christian Scientists shall not report for publication the number of the members of the Mother Church, nor that of the branch churches" (*Christian Science Church Manual*, Article VIII, p.48)
6. According to the *U.S. News and World Report* the estimated membership in 1990 was 170,000. Other estimates place worldwide membership close to 450,000
7. Reading rooms (i.e.- Christian Science libraries) are open daily and located in public places to expose the general population to Christian Science
8. There are two "pastors" of the Church: the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's, *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*
9. Church services are held on Sundays and Wednesdays
 - Sunday services are conducted by two lay Readers and consist of music, singing, scriptural readings, prayer, and a sermon based on a weekly Bible lesson
 - Sunday school is available primarily to those under 20 years old

- Wednesday services consist of readings from the Bible and *Science And Health* related to a theme, but are primarily testimony services where people share experiences, insights, and healings from their prayers and study of Christian Science

10. Further exposure is generated by the circulation of a variety of publications and periodicals

- *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* (Mary Baker Eddy)
- *Miscellaneous Writings* (Mary Baker Eddy)
- *Christian Science Quarterly* (quarterly)
- *Christian Science Journal* (monthly)
- *Christian Science Sentinel* (weekly)
- *Christian Science Monitor* (daily)

II) BELIEFS

The official doctrinal statement of the First Church of Christ, Scientist as contained in *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* (p.496-497) and the *Christian Science Church Manual* (p.15-16) is given below.

1. As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life.
2. We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God. We acknowledge His Son, one Christ; the Holy Ghost or divine Comforter; and man in God's image and likeness.
3. We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts.

4. We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower; and we acknowledge that man is saved through Christ, through Truth, Life, and Love as demonstrated by the Galilean Prophet in healing the sick and overcoming sin and death.
5. We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter.
6. And we solemnly promise to watch, and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus; to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; and to be merciful, just, and pure.

Many of the Christian Science source quotations will appear to contradict the official doctrinal statement

Divine Revelation

1) Assertion

1. The book *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* is a source of divine revelation given to Mary Baker Eddy

"I should blush to write of *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* as I have, were it of human origin, and I, apart from God, were its author. But, as I was only a scribe echoing the harmonies of heaven in divine metaphysics, I cannot be super-modest in my estimate of the Christian Science textbook" (*The First Church Of Christ, Scientist, And Miscellany*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.115).

"In the year 1866, I discovered the Christ Science or divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love, and named my discovery Christian Science. God has been graciously preparing me during many years for the reception of this final revelation of the absolute divine Principle of scientific mental

healing...I won my way to absolute conclusions through divine revelation, reason, and demonstration. The revelation of Truth in the understanding came to me gradually and apparently through divine power" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 107:1-6; 109:20-23).

2) Answer

1. The Bible is the complete revelation of God (Psa 19:7; 1 Cor 13:10; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:21); *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* is a demonic perversion plagiarized from the works of Phineas P. Quimby (*Science of Man*) and Francis Leiber (*The Metaphysical Religion of Hegel*)

<i>Science And Health (Eddy)</i>	<i>Science Of Man (Quimby)</i>
"Sickness is part of the error which Truth casts out"	"Error is sickness. Truth is health"
"Understanding is a quality of God"	"Understanding is God"
"All Science is of God"	"All sciences are part of God"
"Truth is God"	"Truth is God"
"What is God? Jehovah is not a person. God is Principle"	"God is Principle"
"Adhere to the Divine Principle, and follow its behests, abiding steadily in Wisdom, Love and Truth"	"Wisdom, Love, Truth are the Principle"
"Matter is mortal error"	"Error is matter"
"The fundamental error of mortal man is that matter is intelligent"	"Matter has no intelligence"

<i>Science And Health (Eddy)</i>	<i>The Metaphysical Religion (Leiber)</i>
"Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal mind, the entireness of God, good, and the nothingness of evil"	"Hegel science brings to light truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, God's entirety, and matter's nothingness"
"We learn from science mind is universal, the first and only cause of all that really is"	"We learn from Hegel that Mind is universal, the first and only cause of all that really is"
"That spirit propagates matter, or matter spirit is morally impossible; science repudiates the thought"	"That spirit propagates matter or matter spirit, is morally impossible. Hegel repudiates the thought"

- Mary Baker Eddy also plagiarized an entire selection from the book *The English Reader* by Lindley Murray in her *Miscellaneous Writings*

<i>Miscellaneous Writings (Eddy)</i>	<i>The English Reader (Murray)</i>
“The man of integrity is one who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according to the word of God, and the voice of his conscience points it out to him. He is not guided merely by affections which may some time give the color of virtue to a loose and unstable character”	“The man of integrity...is one, who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according as Truth and the voice of his conscience points it out to him. He is not guided merely by affections, which may sometimes give the colour of virture to loose and unstable character”

- Mary Baker Eddy's blatant plagiarism of the ideas and writings of Phineas P. Quimby have been proven and never refuted by Christian Scientists
- Mr. Horace T. Wentworth, whose mother Mrs. Eddy lived with while she taught the *Quimby Manuscripts*, has gone on record as saying: "Christian Science...is not divine revelation but simply the idea of an old-time Maine healer"
- All this in spite of Mrs. Eddy's own words: "There is no warrant in common law and no permission in the gospel for plagiarizing an author's ideas and their words" (*Retrospection and Introspection*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.76).

The Bible

1) Assertion

“As adherents of Truth, we take the inspired Word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal Life” (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497).

1. The Bible was the only authority Mary Baker Eddy used to derive her teachings

"The Bible has been my only authority. I have no other guide in 'The straight and narrow way' of Truth" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 126:29-31).

2. The Bible contains errors and is not the only authority for this age

"...the manifest mistakes in the ancient versions; the thirty thousand different readings in the Old Testament, and the three hundred thousand in the New, - these facts show how a mortal and material sense stole into the divine record, with its own hue darkening to some extent the inspired pages" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 139:16-22).

Referring to Gen 2:7: "Is this addition to His creation real or unreal? Is it truth, or is it a lie concerning man and God? It must be a lie, for God presently curses the ground" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 524:24-27).

"The material record of the Bible...is no more important to our well-being than the history of Europe and America" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, 170:19-22).

"A Christian Scientist requires my work SCIENCE AND HEALTH for his textbook, and so do all his students and patients. Why? First: Because it is the voice of Truth to this age, and contains the full statement of Christian Science, or the Science of healing through Mind. Second: Because it was the first book known, containing a thorough statement of Christian Science. Hence it gave the first rules for demonstrating this Science, and registered the revealed Truth uncontaminated by human hypotheses" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 456:25-457:2).

2) Answer

1. The Bible was not the only authority Mary Baker Eddy used to derive her teachings; it has already been stated and proven by others, that Mrs. Eddy's teachings are derived in part, if not in whole, from the teachings of Phineas P. Quimby as well as Hinduism
2. The Bible does not contain any errors but is perfect (Psa 19:7), pure (Psa 12:6), and preserved (Psa 12:6-7; Isa 40:8; Matt 5:18; 24:35; 1 Pet 1:23,25); and the only divine authority for this age (2 Pet 1:3-4,19-21)

God

1) Assertion

“We acknowledge and adore one supreme and infinite God” (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497).

1. God is not a Trinity nor a person but a Principle, Life, Truth, and Love

"The theory of three persons in one God (that is, a personal Trinity or Tri-unity) suggests polytheism, rather than the one ever-present I AM. 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.'" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 256:9-12).

"1. God is All-in-all. 2. God is good. Good is Mind. 3. God, Spirit, being all, nothing is matter...GOD: Divine Principle, Life, Truth, Love, Soul, Spirit, Mind...GOD. The great I AM" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 113:16-18; 115:13-14; 587:5).

"The Jewish tribal Jehovah was a man-projected God, liable to wrath, repentance, and human changeableness. The Christian Science God is universal, eternal, divine Love, which changeth not and causeth no evil,

disease, nor death" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 140:23-27).

"God is infinitely more than a person...God is a divine *Whole*, and *All*, an all-pervading intelligence and Love, a divine, infinite Principle" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, 16:19-22).

2) Answer

1. God is a PERSON not a PRINCIPLE; he is the personification of life, truth, and love but he is still a divine person

- God is a Trinity- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:26; 11:7; Isa 6:8; Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 2:18; 4:4-6; 1 Pet 1:2; 1 John 5:7)
- The personality of God is proven by the fact he possesses the attributes that constitute personality: sight (Gen 6:5), hearing (Num 11:1), compassion (1 Kin 8:23), mercy (Psa 103:8), righteousness (Psa 145:17), speech (Isa 42:8), memory (Isa 43:25), jealousy (Nah 1:2), love (John 3:16), faithfulness (1 Cor 10:13), will (1 Tim 2:4), knowledge (2 Tim 2:19), and holiness (1 Pet 1:16)
- Christian Science states that God is impersonal and that his name is "I AM", yet "I" is a PERSONAL pronoun
- Christian Science states that God is "I AM" but Jehovah is not God, yet Jehovah means "I AM" (Exo 3:13; 6:3)
- Christian Science accuses Bible-believers of being polytheists, yet the statement, "God is a divine Whole, and ALL" shows them to be PANTHEISTS

One thing Bible-believers and Christian Scientists can agree on is that we have two different Gods. Christian Scientists may acknowledge, worship, and adore one "God", but it isn't the God of the Bible.

Jesus Christ

1) Assertion

“We acknowledge His (God’s) Son, one Christ” (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497).

1. Jesus Christ is not God

"The Christian believes that Christ is God...Jesus Christ is not God, as Jesus himself declared, but is the Son of God" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 361:1-2,12-13).

"A portion of God could not enter man; neither could God's fulness be reflected by a single man, else God would be manifestly finite, lose the deific character, and become less than God" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 336:19-23).

2. Jesus and the Christ are separate entities

"Christ is the ideal Truth, that comes to heal sickness and sin through Christian Science, and attributes all power to God. Jesus is the name of the man who, more than all other men, has presented Christ, the true idea of God...Jesus is the human man, and Christ is the divine idea; hence the duality of Jesus the Christ" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 473:10-16).

"The spiritual Christ was infallible; Jesus, as material manhood, was not Christ" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, 84:12-13).

3. Jesus Christ did not die, rise from the dead, or ascend to heaven

“We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life...” (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497).

"His disciples believed Jesus to be dead while he was hidden in the sepulchre, whereas he was alive, demonstrating within the narrow tomb the power of Spirit to overrule mortal, material sense" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 44:28-31).

"They who earliest saw Jesus after the resurrection and beheld the final proof of all that he had taught, misconstrued that event. Even his disciples at first called him a spirit, ghost, or spectre, for they believed his body to be dead. His reply was: 'Spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.' The reappearing of Jesus was not the return of a spirit. He presented the same body that he had before his crucifixion, and so glorified the supremacy of Mind over matter. Jesus' students, not sufficiently advanced fully to understand their Master's triumph, did not perform many wonderful works, until they saw him after his crucifixion and learned that he had not died" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 45:22-46:3).

"In his final demonstration, called the ascension, which closed the earthly record of Jesus, he rose above the physical knowledge of his disciples, and the material senses saw him no more" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 45:26-29).

4. The blood of Jesus Christ has no redemptive power

"We acknowledge Jesus' atonement as the evidence of divine, efficacious Love, unfolding man's unity with God through Christ Jesus the Way-shower" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497).

"The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed upon 'the accursed tree,' than when it was flowing in his veins as he went daily about his Father's business" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 25:6-9).

2) Answer

1. Jesus Christ was, is, and always will be God (John 1:1; 8:58)

- He is the MIGHTY GOD (Isa 9:6)
- He is THE ALMIGHTY (Rev 1:8; 22:13)
- He is GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH (John 1:1,14; 1 Tim 3:16)
- He is GOD WITH US (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23)
- He is ONE WITH THE FATHER (John 10:30)
- He is EQUAL WITH GOD (Phl 2:6)
- He is ALL THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY (John 14:9; Col 2:9)
- He is THE CREATOR of all things (John 1:3; Eph 3:9)
- He is THE SUSTAINER of all things (Col 1:17; Heb 1:3)
- He is THE SAVIOR (Luke 1:47; 2:11)
- He is OMNISCIENT (John 2:25)
- He is OMNIPOTENT (Matt 28:18)
- He is OMNIPRESENT (John 1:48; 3:13; 6:62)
- He is GOD (Heb 1:8)

When Jesus said he was the Son of God the Jews knew he was declaring himself deity and sought to stone him for blasphemy (John 10:30-33,36)

2. Jesus IS the Christ ("the anointed one") of God, so "Jesus" and "Christ" are not separate entities (Matt 16:16,20; Luke 9:20; 23:35; John 6:69; 11:27; 20:31)

3. The Bible records eyewitness testimonies of the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ

- His death is verified by the testimony of the centurion (Mark 15:39,44-45), the soldiers (John 19:33), Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27:57-60)
- His resurrection is verified by the testimony of many witnesses (1 Cor 15:5-8)

- His ascension is verified by the testimony of the eleven (Acts 1:9-11)
4. The shed blood of Jesus Christ is ESSENTIAL for redemption (Eph 1:7; Heb 9:22; 1 Pet 1:18-19), as well as for:
- Propitiation (Rom 3:25)
 - Justification (Rom 5:9)
 - Forgiveness (Col 1:14)
 - Peace (Col 1:20)
 - Sanctification (Heb 13:12)

Sin, Evil, Death, and Satan

1) Assertion

1. Sin, evil, and death do not exist except as an illusion of material man

"Therefore the only reality of sin, sickness, or death is the awful fact that unrealities seem real to human, erring belief, until God strips off their disguise. They are not true, because they are not of God...Sin, sickness, and death are to be classified as effects of error. Christ came to destroy the belief of sin" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 472:27-30; 473:5-7).

"Hence, evil is but an illusion, and it has no real basis. Evil is a false belief. God is not its author. The supposititious parent of evil is a lie...If sin, sickness, and death were understood as nothingness, they would disappear" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 480:22-25,29-30).

"There was never a moment in which evil was real" (*No and Yes*, p.24)

"DEATH. An illusion, the lie of life in matter; the unreal and untrue; the opposite of life...Any material evidence of death is false, for it

contradicts the spiritual facts of being" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 584:9-10,15-16).

2. The devil is a lie and does not exist

“DEVIL. Evil; a lie; error; neither corporeality nor mind; the opposite of Truth; a belief in sin, sickness, and death; animal magnetism or hypnotism; the lust of the flesh" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 584:18-20).

2) Answer

1. The reality of death is clearly seen in that all men die, even Mary Baker Eddy (Ecc 8:8; 1 Cor 15:22; Heb 9:27); and since all men die (Rom 5:12), and the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), sin and evil are real and universal (Rom 3:10,23; 7:21)
2. Jesus spoke OF the devil as a real being (Luke 22:31; John 8:44) and spoke TO him as a real being (Matt 4:4,7,10; Luke 4:4,8,12)- if the devil does not exist, who/what was Jesus speaking to?

Heaven And Hell

1) Assertion

1. Heaven and hell are not places but states of mind

"HEAVEN. Harmony; the reign of Spirit; government by divine Principle; spirituality; bliss; the atmosphere of Soul" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 587:25-27).

“HELL. Mortal belief; error; lust; remorse; hatred; revenge; sin; sickness; death; suffering and self-destruction; self-imposed agony; effects of sin; that which ‘worketh abomination or maketh a lie.’”

(Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy, 588:1-4).

"The sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy, 266:20-21*).

"The olden opinion that hell is fire and brimstone, has yielded somewhat to the metaphysical fact that suffering is a thing of mortal mind instead of body; so, in place of material flames and odor, mental anguish is generally accepted as the penalty for sin" (*Miscellaneous Writings, Mary Baker Eddy, 237:1-6*).

2) Answer

1. Heaven is a prepared place (1 Kin 8:30,39,43,49; John 14:2) and hell is a prepared place (Matt 25:41; Luke 16:28)
- Hell is a place of CRYING (Luke 16:24; Matt 8:12; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30)
- Hell is a place of TORTURE (Luke 16:24,28; Rev 14:11; 20:10)
- Hell is a place of FIRE (Luke 16:24; Matt 5:22; 13:42; 18:8; 25:41; Mark 9:44-49; Jude 7; Rev 14:10; 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8)

Salvation

1) Assertion

"We acknowledge God's forgiveness of sin in the destruction of sin and the spiritual understanding that casts out evil as unreal. But the belief in sin is punished so long as the belief lasts" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy, p.497*).

1. Salvation is the realization that there is no sin, death, or hell

"SALVATION. Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and death destroyed" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 593:20-22).

2. God did not punish Jesus Christ for anyone's sins, and no single sacrifice could ever cancel out all sin

"One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part. That God's wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son, is divinely unnatural. Such a theory is man-made" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 23:3-7).

3. Man is already saved

"According to divine law, sin and suffering are not cancelled by repentance and pardon...Man as God's idea is already saved with an everlasting salvation" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, 261:6-7,25-26).

2) Answer

1. SALVATION is the result of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31; Rom 10:13)

2. The wrath of God being poured out upon Jesus Christ is part of the eternal plan of God (Isa 53:10; 1 Pet 1:20; Rev 13:8) and is the ultimate demonstration of God's love for sinners (John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:10); the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ is sufficient to pay the sin debt of every man (Isa 53:11; Heb 7:27; 9:28; 10:10,12,14; 1 John 2:2)

3. Man is not already saved, but is condemned (John 3:18) and under the wrath of God (John 3:36) until he exercises saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior (John 3:18; 5:24)

Prayer

1) Assertion

1. Prayer is a futile and unnecessary activity

"Audible prayer can never do the works of spiritual understanding...If prayer nourishes the belief that sin is cancelled, and that man is made better merely by praying, prayer is evil. He grows worse who continues in sin because he fancies himself forgiven" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 4:27-28; 5:25-28).

"Prayer can neither change God, nor bring his designs into mortal modes" (*No and Yes*, p.39).

2) Answer

1. Jesus said that men ought to pray always (Luke 18:1) and taught his disciples how to pray (Luke 11:1-4); the Bible states that God HEARS (Exo 3:7; 1 Pet 3:12) and ANSWERS prayer (Dan 10:12-14; John 14:13; 15:7,16; 16:23-24; Jam 5:16)

It is interesting to note that the official Christian Science website (www.christianscience.com) devotes a special section to PRAYER and states that PRAYERS are part of their services- why, if prayer is futile and unnecessary?

Healing

1) Assertion

1. Sickness does not exist; therefore, healing takes place the moment the individual comes to this realization

"The sick are not healed merely by declaring there is no sickness, but by knowing that there is none" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 447:27-29).

"Sickness is part of error which Truth casts out. Error will not expel error. Christian Science is the law of Truth, which heals the sick on the basis of the one Mind or God. It can heal in no other way, since the human, mortal mind so-called is not a healer, but causes the belief in disease" (*Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, 482:26-31).

2. The miracles contained in the Bible were not supernatural

"The so-called miracles contained in Holy Writ are neither supernatural nor preternatural...the so-called pains and pleasures of matter were alike unreal to Jesus" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy, 199:27-28; 200:28-29).

2) Answer

1. If healing comes the moment one realizes it does not exist, then no Christian Scientist, including Mary Baker Eddy, ever came to this realization since they all get sick and eventually die
2. The dividing of the Red Sea (Exo 14:21-22) was certainly supernatural as was Jesus' calming of the winds and sea (Matt 8:26) and his healing of people who did not believe (Mark 6:5-6)

CONCLUSION

Christian Science is clearly a cult. It deviates from every major doctrine of Biblical Christianity. Mary Baker Eddy was a deceived, unstable opportunist. Her book and final authority of Christian Science, *Science And Health With Key To The Scriptures* is far from being a divine revelation. It contains numerous contradictions and absurdities, and is a

proven plagiarism of the ideas and writings of a known mesmerist. Mrs. Eddy spiritualized and privately interpreted scripture in order to make it support her heretical teachings. In dealing with a Christian Scientist, it is important to point out that the death of Mary Baker Eddy proves that, contrary to Christian Science, death is very real and healing is not an issue of "mind over matter". According to their own doctrine, "Mother" should have been able to prevent her own death since she, above all people, must have known that sickness and death do not exist. If "Mother" was not successful in the ultimate "demonstration" of Christian Science, then how could any Christian Scientist be? Like other cultists, Christian Scientists must question or lose faith in their authority before they will give their full attention to the gospel of Jesus Christ.