

August 11, 2003—Subject: Soul

DEAR FRIENDS: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selection this week is from: TALKS BY JOHN DOORLY ON THE SCIENCE OF THE BIBLE — VOL SEVEN.

The Translation from Darkness into Light: Soul as Mind

Remember, we have seen Principle illustrated through the burden of Babylon, Life illustrated through the burden of Moab, Truth illustrated through the burden of Damascus, and Love illustrated through the woe of the land “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia”—the terrible, cruel nation, symbolizing darkness and everything unlike loveliness. Now Isaiah brings us to the whole tone of *Soul*, and he shows us the translation of Soul in a wonderful way. The overtone of Soul is this: Soul identifies safety, even in Egypt, and destroys the tares of misrule. It is symbolized by the burden of Egypt, and, of course, Isaiah naturally chose Egypt as his illustration, because it was during the third thousand-year period of Soul that the Israelites were brought out of Egypt. Soul will always bring us out of “Egypt.”

In the tone of *Soul as Mind*, Soul translates the darkness of Egypt into the light of Mind, and destroys the belief of minds many.

“The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt:”—Soul will come into Egypt, and it will come as the light of Mind:—”and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour” (Isa. 19:1, 2). You will find that as this translation of the Christ comes to mankind as the rule of Soul operating through the light of Mind, it will bring to the surface all the beliefs of the human mind, beliefs which are shrouded in darkness, ignorance, which have no coherence, which fight against each other, and make us wonder what is wrong. This translation of the Christ is the only thing which can deal with the situation.

Mrs. Eddy says: “A demonstration of the facts of Soul in Jesus’ way resolves the dark visions of material sense into harmony and immortality” (S&H 428:3-6). We begin to understand the translation of Soul when the light of Soul as Mind breaks on our thought.

Remember, we are learning the Christ order, and that Christ order is infinite. We used to think of the Word as one limited order of the synonymous terms for God, the Christ as another, and Christianity as another, but now we are beginning to find that each of them is infinitely vast. You can’t put a fence around them! We are beginning to see how the Christ translates itself; but to explain the Christ order is a big undertaking, because all the divine orders are infinite. The only thing which really explains them is the understanding and demonstration of them.

Spiritualism Translated: Soul as Spirit

So we come to the tone of *Soul as Spirit*, which translates the divine order, and so destroys spiritualism—mingling and the reverse of true order. The claim of spiritualism is that Spirit and matter mingle, which is the reverse of order; in fact, it is going backwards.

Now that we have come to the whole tone of Soul, the emphasis on translation is very marked.

“And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards” (Isa. 19:3).

Mrs. Eddy writes: “Spiritualism would transfer men from the spiritual sense of existence back into its material sense. This gross materialism is scientifically impossible, since to infinite Spirit there can be no matter” (S&H 75:8-11).

So Isaiah is showing the translation of Soul through this burden of Egypt. We saw Soul as Mind translating the darkness of Egypt into the light of Mind, thereby destroying the belief of minds many. Now we see Soul as Spirit translating the divine order, and so destroying spiritualism, necromancy, and all that involves the supposed mingling of Spirit and matter—the reverse of true order.

Mortal Sense Destroyed: Soul as Soul

Now we come to the tone of *Soul as Soul*, in which the rule of Soul sweeps away the elements of mortal sense and all that it brings forth. Soul as Soul translates and identifies all things as being of God.

“And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up” (Isa. 19:4, 5). Remember that in Egypt everything depended on the Nile. They used to call the Nile “the sea.”

“And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded. And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish” (Isa. 19:6-10). If you had wanted to identify Egypt, you could not have done it better. The waters of the river, the fishers, the flax, the reeds which they grew to make parchment, the sluices and the fish were all typical of life in Egypt. But Isaiah was illustrating that all these things, which are brought forth from the elements of mortal sense, will be swept away through the rule of Soul.

Mrs. Eddy says: “In the first chapter of Genesis we read: ‘And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas.’ 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. The divine understanding reigns, is *all*, and there is no other consciousness” (S&H 535:29-9). That last statement is a wonderful correlation of this tone, which we epitomized like this: The rule of Soul sweeps away the elements of mortal sense, and all that it brings forth.

The Futility of False Government: Soul as Principle

Next we come to the tone of *Soul as Principle*, which translates the one government, and shows all other government to be futile. In those days Egypt and its government were considered to be very firmly established. The other nations—Assyria, Babylon, the Medes, the Persians—all rose and fell, but the government of Egypt went on and always seemed to maintain itself. It was the great fear of the other nations that they would come under the government of Egypt, and the moment any of them became at all powerful, they wanted to conquer Egypt and so free themselves from this fear.

“Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the Lord of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof:

and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit. Neither shall there be any work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do” (Isa. 19:11-15). So Isaiah, wishing to show the futility of a material sense of government, considers the government of Egypt, which was supposed to be outstanding, and he says, “The princes of Zoan are become fools,” and their government is “as a drunken man.” In fact, it is not government at all.

There isn’t anything that is more important than that the Christ translation should identify to us the right idea of government. The right idea of government is essential to the world today, and Isaiah showed that *Soul as Principle* translates the one government and shows all other government to be futile. We need this Christ translation to come to each one of us and show us what true government is, because true government must begin with the individual, with each one of us. Then we shall have the only government which can succeed, the government of free men, the government of individuals. No other government can ever succeed. The whole sense of Principle and government is that every idea individually is one with God. Unity is not unity between ideas; unity is only to be found in the fact that every idea is one with God. Therefore when we find unity in Principle we shall have true government.

So Isaiah, in this translation of *Soul*, shows how an understanding of Principle will translate to us the true government by identifying it, thereby destroying all false government, of which Egypt was identified as the type.

The Destitution of Physical Sense Testimony: Soul as Life

So we come to the tone of *Soul as Life*, which translates immortality to man and proves the testimony of the five physical senses to be destitute. This is a very clear tone.

“In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: — remember, a woman was considered to be a very weak character in those days:— “and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it. And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the Lord of hosts, which he hath determined against it. In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts;”— the five physical senses “speak the language of Canaan” — “one shall be called, The city of destruction” (Isa. 19: 16-18) —the five physical senses are the one liar and are always destructive.

Mrs. Eddy defines “Canaan” in this way: “A sensuous belief; the testimony of what is termed material sense; the error which would make man mortal and would make mortal mind a slave to the body” (S& H 582:24-27).

The Translation of Truth as the Saviour: Soul as Truth

Now we come to the tone of *Soul as Truth*, which translates the Saviour to mankind, and resurrects all human beliefs. This is a lovely tone.

“In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord.” An altar is a symbol of Love, and a pillar is a standard, a symbol of Truth. Isaiah is symbolizing the fact that Love is translating its ideal as Truth, through Soul. “And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them. And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the Lord, and perform it. And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them” (Isa. 19:19-22) —you couldn’t doubt that this is the translation of Truth. Truth is always health.

“In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance” (Isa. 19:23-25). That ends the tone of *Soul as Truth*, which translates the Saviour to mankind and resurrects all human beliefs. In the symbols of the altar and the pillar you see Love translating itself through *Soul as Truth*.

Mrs. Eddy writes: “God will overturn, until ‘He come whose right it is.’ Longevity is increasing and the power of sin diminishing, for the world feels the alterative effect of truth through every pore” (S&H 223:31-3). That is true because Soul, translating itself as Truth, will be a savior to every human belief, and that translation is irresistible because Soul is God. Soul translates divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love to the point of idea.

The Infinite Disposal of Love: Soul as Love

Finally, we come to the tone of *Soul as Love*, which translates to men the infinite disposal of Love, and shows all other ways to be naked.

“In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,)”—Tartan was Sargon’s general,—“and fought against Ashdod, and took it; at the same time spake the Lord by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot. And the Lord said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia; so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt. And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory”—a false sense of glory, not the glory of Love. “And the inhabitant of this isle shall say in that day, Behold, such is our expectation, whither we flee for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria: and how shall we escape?” (Isa. 20: 1—6). So there Isaiah illustrates *Soul as Love* translating to men the infinite disposal of Love, which shows all other ways to be naked.

Mrs. Eddy writes: "When God bids one uncover iniquity, in order to exterminate it, one should lay it bare; and divine Love will bless this endeavor and those whom it reaches" (Mis. 348:8-10). When Soul translates the Christ to us as Love, we see the glory of Love, and that makes everything inglorious or unlovely walk "naked and barefoot" and then annihilate itself. Surely we want all that is unlovely and inglorious, all that is unlike divine Love, to become "naked and barefoot," so that it may be annihilated in our thought.

I don't think that any of you can doubt that this design is real and true. It is not faked or forced. Remember, all these things are positive, they are vital, they are dynamic. As you entertain these ideas you are putting on the Mind of Christ, the impulse of which is irresistible. So think about these things, and when you have done that, then think a little more about them.



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