

2024.12.25 - Advent - Matthew's story (encore)

🗨️ *Christian Science Hymnal 236, 434, 368*

🗨️ *King James Bible*

1. Num. 24:17 (to 4th ,)

17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, ...

2. Isa. 7:14 the, 15

14 ... the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

3. Mic. 5:2

2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

4. Isa. 60:1-4 (to 2nd :), 6, 7

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: ...

6 The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.

7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

5. Hos. 11:1

1 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

6. Matt. 1:1, 17–25 all

- 1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- 17 ... all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon *are* fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ *are* fourteen generations.
- 18 ¶ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
- 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.
- 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
- 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
- 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
- 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
- 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:
- 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

7. Matt. 2:1–23

- 1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
- 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
- 3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
- 5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- 6 And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
- 7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
- 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
- 9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

- 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.
- 11 ¶ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.
- 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.
- 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:
- 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.
- 16 ¶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.
- 17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,
- 18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.
- 19 ¶ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.
- 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.
- 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

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

1. SH 333:16 The

- ... The advent of Jesus of Nazareth marked the first century of the Christian era, but the Christ is
- 18 without beginning of years or end of days. Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spirit-
- 21 ual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive

The divine
Principle
and idea

Christ, Truth. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and the prophets
24 caught glorious glimpses of the Messiah, or Christ, which
baptized these seers in the divine nature, the essence of
Love. The divine image, idea, or Christ was, is, and
27 ever will be inseparable from the divine Principle, God.
Jesus referred to this unity of his spiritual identity thus:
“Before Abraham was, I am;” “I and my Father are
30 one;” “My Father is greater than I.” The one Spirit
includes all identities.

2. SH 29:12

12 There is a tradition that Publius Lentulus wrote to
the authorities at Rome: “The disciples of Jesus be-
lieve him the Son of God.” Those instructed
15 in Christian Science have reached the glori-
ous perception that God is the only author of man.
The Virgin-mother conceived this idea of God, and
18 gave to her ideal the name of Jesus — that is, Joshua,
or Saviour.

The Father-
hood of God

3. SH 589:16

JESUS. The highest human corporeal concept of the
divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing
18 to light man’s immortality.

4. SH 594:16 (only)

SON. The Son of God, the Messiah or Christ.

5. SH 583:10

CHRIST. The divine manifestation of God, which comes
to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.

6. SH 333:3 The

3 ... The word *Christ* is not properly a synonym for
Jesus, though it is commonly so used. Jesus was a human
name, which belonged to him in common with
6 other Hebrew boys and men, for it is identical
with the name Joshua, the renowned Hebrew leader. On
the other hand, Christ is not a name so much as the divine
9 title of Jesus. Christ expresses God’s spiritual, eternal
nature. The name is synonymous with Messiah, and al-
ludes to the spirituality which is taught, illustrated, and
12 demonstrated in the life of which Christ Jesus was the

Messiah
or Christ

embodiment. The proper name of our Master in the
Greek was Jesus the Christ; but Christ Jesus better sig-
15 nifies the Godlike.

7. SH 240:7–11

Suns and planets teach grand lessons.

The stars make night beautiful, and the leaflet turns nat-
9 urally towards the light.

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

8. SH 121:4–32

Copernicus mapped out the stellar system, and before
he spake, astrology was chaotic, and the heavenly fields
6 were incorrectly explored.

The Chaldean Wisemen read in the stars the fate of
empires and the fortunes of men. Though no higher
9 revelation than the horoscope was to them dis-
played upon the empyrean, earth and heaven
were bright, and bird and blossom were glad in God's
12 perennial and happy sunshine, golden with Truth. So
we have goodness and beauty to gladden the heart; but
man, left to the hypotheses of material sense unexplained
15 by Science, is as the wandering comet or the desolate
star — “a weary searcher for a viewless home.”

Perennial
beauty

The earth's diurnal rotation is invisible to the physical
18 eye, and the sun seems to move from east to west, instead
of the earth from west to east. Until rebuked
by clearer views of the everlasting facts, this
21 false testimony of the eye deluded the judgment and in-
duced false conclusions. Science shows appearances often
to be erroneous, and corrects these errors by the simple
24 rule that the greater controls the lesser. The sun is the
central stillness, so far as our solar system is concerned,
and the earth revolves about the sun once a year, besides
27 turning daily on its own axis.

Astronomic
unfoldings

As thus indicated, astronomical order imitates the
action of divine Principle; and the universe, the reflec-
30 tion of God, is thus brought nearer the spiritual fact, and
is allied to divine Science as displayed in the everlasting
government of the universe.

9. SH vii:1

1 **T**O those leaning on the sustaining infinite, to-day is
big with blessings. The wakeful shepherd beholds
3 the first faint morning beams, ere cometh the full radiance
of a risen day. So shone the pale star to the prophet-
shepherds; yet it traversed the night, and came where, in
6 cradled obscurity, lay the Bethlehem babe, the human
herald of Christ, Truth, who would make plain to be-
nighted understanding the way of salvation through Christ
9 Jesus, till across a night of error should dawn the morn-
ing beams and shine the guiding star of being. The Wise-
men were led to behold and to follow this daystar of
12 divine Science, lighting the way to eternal harmony.

10. SH 95:19

We welcome the increase of knowledge and the end
of error, because even human invention must have its
21 day, and we want that day to be succeeded
by Christian Science, by divine reality. Mid-
night foretells the dawn. Led by a solitary star amid
24 the darkness, the Magi of old foretold the Messiahship
of Truth. Is the wise man of to-day believed, when he
beholds the light which heralds Christ's eternal dawn
27 and describes its effulgence?

Christ's
reappearance

11. SH 84:7–18, 28–9

When sufficiently advanced
in Science to be in harmony with the truth of being, men
9 become seers and prophets involuntarily, controlled not
by demons, spirits, or demigods, but by the one Spirit.
It is the prerogative of the ever-present, divine Mind, and
12 of thought which is in rapport with this Mind, to know
the past, the present, and the future.

Acquaintance with the Science of being enables us to
15 commune more largely with the divine Mind, to foresee
and foretell events which concern the universal welfare,
to be divinely inspired, — yea, to reach the range of fetter-
18 less Mind.

All we correctly know of Spirit comes from God, divine
Principle, and is learned through Christ and Christian
30 Science. If this Science has been thoroughly
learned and properly digested, we can know

Scientific
foreknowing

the truth more accurately than the astronomer can read
1 the stars or calculate an eclipse. This Mind-reading
is the opposite of clairvoyance. It is the illumination of
3 the spiritual understanding which demonstrates the ca-
pacity of Soul, not of material sense. This Soul-sense
comes to the human mind when the latter yields to the
6 divine Mind.

Such intuitions reveal whatever constitutes and per-
petuates harmony, enabling one to do good, but not
9 evil.

12. SH 249:24–5

24 Sleep and apathy are phases of the dream that life, sub-
stance, and intelligence are material. The mortal night-
dream is sometimes nearer the fact of being than are the
27 thoughts of mortals when awake. The night-dream has
less matter as its accompaniment. It throws off some
material fetters. It falls short of the skies, but makes its
30 mundane flights quite ethereal.

Man is the reflection of Soul. He is the direct oppo-
site of material sensation, and there is but one Ego. We
1 run into error when we divide Soul into souls, multiply
Mind into minds and suppose error to be mind, then mind
3 to be in matter and matter to be a lawgiver,
unintelligence to act like intelligence, and mor-
tality to be the matrix of immortality.

Philosophical
blunders

13. SH 565:6–28

6 *Revelation* xii. 5. And she brought forth a man child,
who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her
child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.

9 Led on by the grossest element of mortal mind, Herod
decreed the death of every male child in order that the
man Jesus, the masculine representative of the
12 spiritual idea, might never hold sway and de-
prive Herod of his crown. The impersonation of the
spiritual idea had a brief history in the earthly life of our
15 Master; but “of his kingdom there shall be no end,”
for Christ, God’s idea, will eventually rule all nations
and peoples — imperatively, absolutely, finally — with di-
18 vine Science. This immaculate idea, represented first
by man and, according to the Revelator, last by woman,
will baptize with fire; and the fiery baptism will burn up
21 the chaff of error with the fervent heat of Truth and Love,

The conflict
with purity

melting and purifying even the gold of human character.
After the stars sang together and all was primeval har-
mony, the material lie made war upon the spiritual idea;
24 but this only impelled the idea to rise to the zenith of
demonstration, destroying sin, sickness, and death, and
27 to be caught up unto God, — to be found in its divine
Principle.

14. SH 582:14–20

BRIDE. Purity and innocence, conceiving man in the
15 idea of God; a sense of Soul, which has spiritual bliss
and enjoys but cannot suffer.

BRIDEGROOM. Spiritual understanding; the pure con-
18 sciousness that God, the divine Principle, creates man
as His own spiritual idea, and that God is the only crea-
tive power.

15. SH 559:8–12

The “still, small voice”

9 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.”
12 It is heard in the desert and in dark places of fear.

16. SH 514:10–11

Moral courage is “the lion of the tribe of Juda,” the
king of the mental realm.

17. SH 59:1–16

1 Matrimony should never be entered into
without a full recognition of its enduring obligations on
3 both sides. There should be the most tender
solicitude for each other’s happiness, and mu-
tual attention and approbation should wait on all the years
6 of married life.

Mutual compromises will often maintain a compact
which might otherwise become unbearable. Man should
9 not be required to participate in all the annoyances and
cares of domestic economy, nor should woman be ex-
pected to understand political economy. Fulfilling the
12 different demands of their united spheres, their sympa-
thies should blend in sweet confidence and cheer, each
partner sustaining the other, — thus hallowing the union

Differing
duties

15 of interests and affections, in which the heart finds peace
and home.

18. SH 57:1–14

1 Chastity is the cement of civilization and progress.
Without it there is no stability in society, and without it
3 one cannot attain the Science of Life.

Union of the masculine and feminine qualities consti-
tutes completeness. The masculine mind reaches a
6 higher tone through certain elements of the
feminine, while the feminine mind gains cour-
age and strength through masculine qualities. These
9 different elements conjoin naturally with each other, and
their true harmony is in spiritual oneness. Both sexes
should be loving, pure, tender, and strong. The attrac-
12 tion between native qualities will be perpetual only as it
is pure and true, bringing sweet seasons of renewal like
the returning spring.

Mental
elements

19. SH 61:24–3

24 Is not the propagation of the human species a greater
responsibility, a more solemn charge, than the culture of
your garden or the raising of stock to increase your flocks
27 and herds? Nothing unworthy of perpetuity should be
transmitted to children.

The formation of mortals must greatly improve to
30 advance mankind. The scientific *morale* of marriage is
spiritual unity. If the propagation of a higher human
species is requisite to reach this goal, then its material con-
1 ditions can only be permitted for the purpose of gener-
ating. The foetus must be kept mentally pure and the
3 period of gestation have the sanctity of virginity.

20. SH 482:13–25

Question. — Is it important to understand these ex-
planations in order to heal the sick?

15 *Answer.* — It is, since Christ is “the way” and the
truth casting out all error. Jesus called himself “the
Son of man,” but not the son of Joseph. As
18 woman is but a species of the genera, he was
literally the Son of Man. Jesus was the highest human
concept of the perfect man. He was inseparable from
21 Christ, the Messiah, — the divine idea of God outside
the flesh. This enabled Jesus to demonstrate his con-

Sonship
of Jesus

trol over matter. Angels announced to the Wisemen of
24 old this dual appearing, and angels whisper it, through
faith, to the hungering heart in every age.

21. SH 255:1-6

1 **E**TERNAL Truth is changing the universe. As mor-
tals drop off their mental swaddling-clothes, thought
3 expands into expression. “Let there be light,”
is the perpetual demand of Truth and Love,
changing chaos into order and discord into the
6 music of the spheres.

Inadequate
theories of
creation