

**Readings from the Wednesday Testimony Meeting**  
**Subject: Healing the Earth: Understanding how our relationship with God**  
**guides our relationship with the Earth, its resources and creatures**  
**April 13, 2011**  
**Hymns: 45, 144, 275**

**The *Bible***

Jer. 22:29

O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord.

Luke 10:19 nothing

...nothing shall by any means hurt you.

I Cor. 10:26

For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

Gen. 1:10, 12, 21, 24, 26, 31 to 1st .

And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind; and God saw that it was good.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold it was very good.

Job 37: 23

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

Job 38: 4, 7, 8, 25-27

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?  
Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man;

To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?

Isa. 21: 1, 2 to 1st ., 3 l, 4 to :

The burden of the desert of the sea. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land.

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth.

I was bowed down at the hearing of it; I was dismayed at the seeing of it.

My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me:

Isa. 24:4, 5

The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

The earth is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.

Isa. 34: 9, 10

And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.

It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

Isa. 16: 4 be

be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

Isa. 18: 2 Go, to last comma

Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down,

Phil. 2:13, 15

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Isa. 49:17 thy

thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee.

I Tim. 4:4 Every, to comma

...every creature of God is good,

Isa. 35:1, 2

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water:

Isa. 11: 6-9

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Rev. 5:13

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Rev. 7:2, 3

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

James 1:18, 21

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Ps. 98: 4, 7-9

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Isa. 55:12, 13

For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Rom. 8: 19-21, 28 (J.B. Phillips New Testament in Modern English)

The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own.

And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God.

It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail.

Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to his plan, everything that happens fits into a pattern for good.

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

206:15

In the scientific relation of God to man, we find that whatever blesses one blesses all, as Jesus showed with the loaves and the fishes,—Spirit, not matter, being the source of supply.

518: 13-15, 19-21

God gives the lesser idea of Himself for a link to the greater, and in return, the higher always protects the lower.

Love giveth to the least spiritual idea might, immortality, and goodness, which shine through all as the blossom shines through the bud.

571:12

Escape from evil, and designate those as unfaithful stewards who have seen the danger and yet have given no warning.

537:9-13

A knowledge of evil was never the essence of divinity or manhood. In the first chapter of Genesis, evil has no local habitation nor name. Creation is there represented as spiritual, entire, and good.

536:1-8

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.

502:28-3

The universe reflects God. There is but one creator and one creation. This creation consists of the unfolding of spiritual ideas and their identities, which are embraced in the infinite Mind and forever reflected.

503:22

But this Mind creates no element nor symbol of discord and decay. God creates neither erring thought, mortal life, mutable truth, nor variable love.

556:5

These false beliefs will disappear, when the radiation of Spirit destroys forever all belief in intelligent matter. Then will the new heaven and new earth appear, for the former things will have passed away.

583:20

Creator. . . . God, who made all that was made and could not create an atom or an element the opposite of Himself.

585:5-8

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

587:25 to 1<sup>st</sup> ., 25-27 government

Heaven.

government by divine Principle; spirituality; bliss; the atmosphere of Soul.

450:29-2

Knowing the claim of animal magnetism, that all evil combines in the belief of life, substance, and intelligence in matter, electricity, animal nature, and organic life, who will deny that these are the errors which Truth must and will annihilate?

287:32

Truth cannot be contaminated by error.

249:6-8

Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor material power as able to destroy.

240:1, 14-22

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

Mortals move onward towards good or evil as time glides on. If mortals are not progressive, past failures will be repeated until all wrong work is effaced or rectified. If at present satisfied with wrong-doing, we must learn to loathe it.

124:14, 25

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

Spirit is the life, substance, and continuity of all things. We tread on forces.

Withdraw them, and creation must collapse. Human knowledge calls them forces of matter; but divine Science declares that they belong wholly to divine Mind, are inherent in this Mind, and so restores them to their rightful home and classification.

125:21-22

The seasons will come and go with changes of time and tide, cold and heat, latitude and longitude.

96:5-11 to 1<sup>st</sup> .

Before error is wholly destroyed, there will be interruptions of the general material routine. Earth will become dreary and desolate, but summer and winter, seedtime and harvest (though in changed forms), will continue unto the end,— until the final spiritualization of all things.

201:6

Truth makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away and “all things are become new.” Passions, selfishness, false appetites, hatred, fear, all sensuality, yield to spirituality, and the superabundance of being is on the side of God, good.

507:1-6, 24-25, 28-29

In metaphor, the *dry land* illustrates the absolute formations instituted by Mind, while *water* symbolizes the elements of Mind. Spirit duly feeds and clothes every object, as it appears in the line of spiritual creation, thus tenderly expressing the fatherhood and motherhood of God.

Infinite Mind creates and governs all, from the mental molecule to infinity.

Creation is ever appearing, and must ever continue to appear from the nature of its inexhaustible source.

514:7, 18-30

Mind's infinite ideas run and disport themselves. In humility they climb the heights of holiness.

Tenderness accompanies all the might imparted by Spirit. The individuality created by God is not carnivorous, as witness the millennial estate pictured by Isaiah:—

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
And the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
And the calf and the young lion, and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.

Understanding the control which Love held over all, Daniel felt safe in the lions' den, and Paul proved the viper to be harmless. All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible.

516:12-19

Love, redolent with unselfishness, bathes all in beauty and light. The grass beneath our feet silently exclaims, “The meek shall inherit the earth.” The modest arbutus sends her sweet breath to heaven. The great rock gives shadow and shelter. The sunlight glints from the church-dome, glances into the prison-cell, glides into the sick-chamber, brightens the flower, beautifies the landscape, blesses the earth.

511:6, 23

The divine Mind supports the sublimity, magnitude, and infinitude of spiritual creation.

To mortal mind, the universe is liquid, solid, and aëriform. Spiritually interpreted, rocks and mountains stand for solid and grand ideas. Animals and mortals metaphorically present the gradation of mortal thought, rising in the scale of intelligence, taking form in masculine, feminine, or neuter gender. The fowls, which fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven, correspond to aspirations soaring beyond and above corporeality to the understanding of the incorporeal and divine Principle, Love.

509:20

So-called mineral, vegetable, and animal substances are no more contingent now on time or material structure than they were when “the morning stars sang together.” Mind made the “plant of the field before it was in the earth.” The periods of spiritual ascension are the days and seasons of Mind’s creation, in which beauty, sublimity, purity, and holiness—yea, the divine nature—appear in man and the universe never to disappear.

470:32

The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.