Revelation 12 Study:

Mrs. Eddy gave us only three chapters on Revelation in the Christian Science textbook, Revelation 10—the little book; Revelation 12—the Apocalyptic Woman; Revelation 21—the Holy city. All of the book of Revelation is about the unveiling or illumination of divine Science to human consciousness, so it is critical to our growing spiritual understanding and practice.

Since she tells us “spiritual teaching must **always** be by symbols” (575:12), and we know that the book of Revelation is completely in symbols, how spiritual is this book?

All of us need to spend time, effort, and work in the study of the book of Revelation and these three chapters especially, and no *person* can tell you what they mean. I have notes and notes and notes and three-ring notebooks on the meaning of these three chapters, as well as the other chapters in Revelation, and I still don’t feel like I understand them fully. But I know they are important, and every so often I take them all out again and renew and refresh my efforts to dig deeper into them.

Revelation 12 is particularly important because it describes *the woman,* the *man-child*, and the *great red dragon* that would try to devour her child. I am not going to attempt to teach or tell you what these chapters mean, but just know they are very, very important!

Each individual has to discover the importance of these chapters themselves, and the only way to do that is to individually study, study, and study, pray for inspiration and practice. Let it be revealed to you from God, not man, or human opinion.

**Here are some possible resources for you to begin this lifelong study:**

You can order two studies done by the CS Board of Directors during the late 1930’s from the Archives and now available in the MBE Library: ***Mary Baker Eddy and Bible Prophecy: Two Studies, January 26, 1938, March 8, 1938.***

(The result of this study was the publishing of the Six Points called “Mrs. Eddy’s Place”, this was published in the CSJ, July 1943, pp. 412-413, and “Mrs. Eddy’s Place,” June 5, 1943, CSS.) For decades, it was in a pamphlet in our Reading Room.

**Begin your study by:**

Taking the verses in Revelation 12 and spread then out on a Word document with spaces between the verses.
Begin to look up every word you can in Greek. Look up every phrase in Mrs. Eddy’s writings. Look up phrases in the periodicals and see what the early workers wrote about it.

Take one phrase like “under the feet” or “wonder” and see if it is anywhere else in the Scriptures. Let the Bible teach you what the symbols mean.

Here is a sample of my attempt at this:

Rev 12:1

1. And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars

- *sign[wonder]* : used 7 times in Rev. only once positively

 - [wonder] ***sign***: *semeion*: miracle; wonder; sign; that by which a person or thing is distinguished from others; an unusual occurrence; miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by him; signs of Divine authority. suggest “appearing”, its root word means “to come”

 (an appearing of someone to come)

* + 1. **appear**: *optanomai* in Greek “to look at behold; allow one’s self to be seen, appear
		2. “the perception of personal beings that become visible in a transcendent manner”
	+ woman in the Apocalypse is a “symbol”
		1. A symbol is “a visible sign of something invisible”
		2. the woman is a visible idea: The woman in the Apocalypse is the visible sign of the spiritual idea
		3. The spiritual idea has been impersonated by both a man (Christ Jesus) and a woman (the woman in the Apocalypse)

CS was identified as “a great light” in the periodicals during MBE’s lifetime

Gen. 1:16

The two great lights “give light upon the earth” to illumine the way for mortal man: they guide and lead the sincere seeker of Truth in his journey.

The two great lights are *ma’owr* or lightbearers, those who bear the light and there are two of them.

The woman “clothed with the sun” suggests both an illumining and a guiding role. (a signal or beacon, like a lighthouse, a way-shower.

MBE referred to the dual function of CS to illumine and guide in the way of Truth

*My 187:6-11*

 *6 May the divine light of Christian Science that lighteth*

 *every enlightened thought illumine your faith and under-*

 *standing, exclude all darkness or doubt, and signal the*

 *9 perfect path wherein to walk, the perfect Principle whereby*

 *to demonstrate the perfect man and the perfect law of*

 *God.*

*End of Sample:*

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**I often look up things in the periodicals because the early workers were so biblical and their writings so expansive and clear. There are numerous articles on revelation, the final revelation, Mrs. Eddy as Revelator, etc.**

**Here are some possible articles all from the Christian Science Journal:**

“The Second Coming,” Albert Gilmore, November 1939

“Christian Science and its Revelator,” CSJ, April 1889

“The Fulfillment of Prophecy,” Mattie Bird Clarke, February, 1906

“Christian Science and Prophecy” by Samuel Greenwood, February 1918

“Readiness for Blessings,” Irving Tomlinson, January 1938

“Revelation and Revelator,” Editorial by George Shaw Cook, august 1938

“The Final Revelation,” Bliss Knapp, December 1938

“Our Leader and Her Life Purpose,” Ethel Munro Goss, July 1944

“Scriptural Prophecy and its Fulfillment,” Helen Wood Bauman, August 1947

“The writings of our Leader,” Editorial by L. Ivimy Gwalter, July 1948

“Following the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science,” Rosemary Cobham, January 1954

“Mary Baker Eddy: Her Prophecies,” Ivimy Gwalter, December 1966

“Believe His Prophets,” Maurice Hastie, September 1967

**From the Christian Science Sentinel:**

“Our Duty to our Leader,” Ella Hoag, January 22, 1927

“The Two Olive Trees,” Frederick Stringer, November 16, 1946