

Probation After Death

Section 1
The Bible

GOLDEN TEXT | Psalms 23:4 (to 1st .)

Even if I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, LORD,
for you are with me.

RESPONSIVE READING | Isaiah 43:1–3 *now* (to :), 16; 25:8, 9

- 1 . . . now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.
- 2 **When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**
- 3 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:
- 16 **Thus saith the Lord, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;**
- 8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.
- 9 **And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

1 | Psalms 107:31, 35

31 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

35 He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.

2 | Psalms 23:1, 4

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

3 | Psalms 139:7, 24 *lead*

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

24 lead me in the way everlasting.

Section 1
Science and Health

1 | 496:9 (only)

9 We all must learn that Life is God.

The Golden Text is from the Good News Translation in Today's English Version—Second Edition.

2 | 289:32–1

1 Because Life is God, Life must be eternal, self-existent.

3 | 596:21–25

21 “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” (Psalm xxiii. 4.)

24 Though the way is dark in mortal sense, divine Life and Love illumine it, destroy the unrest of mortal thought, the fear of death, and the supposed reality of error.

4 | 597:16

18 **WILDERNESS.** Loneliness; doubt; darkness. Spontaneity of thought and idea; the vestibule in which a material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence.

5 | 76:6–10

6 When being is understood, Life will be recognized as neither material nor finite, but as infinite, — as God, universal good; and the belief that life, or
 9 mind, was ever in a finite form, or good in evil, will be destroyed. Real Life is God

6 | 291:9–13

9 Mortals need not fancy that belief in the experience of death will awaken them to glorified being.

12 Universal salvation rests on progression and probation, and is unattainable without them.

7 | 598:23–30

24 One moment of divine consciousness, or the spiritual understanding of Life and Love, is a foretaste of eternity. This exalted view, obtained and retained when the Science of being is understood, would bridge over with life
 27 discerned spiritually the interval of death, and man would be in the full consciousness of his immortality and eternal harmony, where sin, sickness, and death are un-
 30 known.

*Section 2
The Bible*

4 | II Kings 4:8–12, 16–21, 25–27 (to 1st :), 28, 30, 32, 33, 35–37 and the

8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. 11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there. 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season

that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life. 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers. 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother. 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. 21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite: 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well. 27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet:

28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

35 and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

5 | Psalms 56:11 (to :), 13

11 In God have I put my trust:

13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

*Section 2
Science and Health*

8 | 206:19–21

Does God send sickness, giving the mother her child for the brief space of a few years and then taking it away by death?

9 | 539:8–12

What can be the standard of good, of Spirit, of Life, or of Truth, if they produce their opposites, such as evil, matter, error, and death? God could never impart an element of evil, and man possesses nothing which he has not derived from God.

Only one standard

10 | 426:16–19

When it is learned that disease cannot destroy life, and that mortals are not saved from sin or sickness by death, this understanding will quicken into newness of life.

11 | 406:20–25 *We*

We can, and ultimately shall, so rise as to avail ourselves in every direction of the supremacy of Truth over error, Life

Resist to the end

over death, and good over evil, and this growth will go
 24 on until we arrive at the fulness of God’s idea, and no
 more fear that we shall be sick and die.

12 | 495:14

When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling
 15 steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His
 likeness to abide in your thought. Let neither Steadfast and
 fear nor doubt overshadow your clear sense and calm trust
 18 calm trust, that the recognition of life harmonious — as
 Life eternally is — can destroy any painful sense of, or
 belief in, that which Life is not. Let Christian Science,
 21 instead of corporeal sense, support your understanding of
 being, and this understanding will supplant error with
 Truth, replace mortality with immortality, and silence dis-
 24 cord with harmony.

13 | 550:12

12 The true sense of being
 and its eternal perfection should appear now, even as it
 will hereafter.

Section 3
The Bible

6 | John 9:39 Jesus (to ;)

39 Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world,
 that they which see not might see;

7 | John 10:10 I am, 27, 28

10 I am come that they might have life, and that they
 might have it more abundantly.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they
 follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they
 shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out
 of my hand.

8 | Matthew 12:46–50

46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother
 and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.
 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy breth-
 ren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he
 answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my
 mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched
 forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my
 mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will
 of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother,
 and sister, and mother.

Section 3
Science and Health

14 | 31:4

Jesus acknowledged no ties of the flesh. He said: “Call
 no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father,
 6 which is in heaven.” Again he asked: “Who Fleshly ties
 is my mother, and who are my brethren,” im- temporal
 plying that it is they who do the will of his Father. We
 9 have no record of his calling any man by the name of
father. He recognized Spirit, God, as the only creator, and
 therefore as the Father of all.

15 | 69:13

Section 4
The Bible

15 Spiritually to understand that there is but one creator, God, unfolds all creation, confirms the Scriptures, brings the sweet assurance of no parting, no pain, and of man deathless and perfect and eternal.

16 | 410:1–9

1 If here we give no heed to Christian Science, which is spiritual and eternal, we shall not be ready for spiritual
 3 Life hereafter.
 “This is life eternal,” says Jesus, — *is*, not *shall be*; and then he defines everlasting life as a present knowledge
 6 of his Father and of himself, — the knowledge Life eternal and present
 of Love, Truth, and Life. “This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and
 9 Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.”

17 | 63:5

6 In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not, like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor Spiritual origin
 does he pass through material conditions prior
 9 to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ultimate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the law of his being.

18 | 485:18–19

18 Not death, but the understanding of Life, makes man immortal.

9 | Matthew 20:17–19

17 And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, 18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

10 | John 14:27 Let, 29

27 Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
 29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

11 | John 19:23–27

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore

saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!
 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

*Section 4
 Science and Health*

19 | 242:21–32

21 The vesture of Life is Truth. According to the Bible, the facts of being are commonly misconstrued, for it is written: “They parted my raiment among
 24 them, and for my vesture they did cast lots.”

Divided vestments

The divine Science of man is woven into one web of consistency without seam or rent. Mere speculation or superstition appropriates no part of the divine vesture, while inspiration restores every part of the Christly garment of righteousness.

30 The finger-posts of divine Science show the way our Master trod, and require of Christians the proof which he gave, instead of mere profession.

20 | 54:1–5

1 Through the magnitude of his human life, he demonstrated the divine
 3 Life. Out of the amplitude of his pure affection, he defined Love. With the affluence of Truth, he vanquished error.

21 | 20:16

“Despised and rejected of men,”
 returning blessing for cursing, he taught mortals the opposite of themselves, even the nature of God; and when error felt the power of Truth, the scourge and the cross awaited the great Teacher. Yet he swerved not, well knowing that to obey the divine order and trust God, saves retracing and traversing anew the path from sin to holiness.

Perfect example

22 | 41:6

6 Like our Master, we must depart from material sense into the spiritual sense of being.

23 | 428:23

We must hold
 24 forever the consciousness of existence, and sooner or later, through Christ and Christian
 Science, we must master sin and death. The evidence
 27 of man’s immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.

The present immortality

*Section 5
 The Bible*

12 | John 19:41, 42 (to ;)

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. 42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews’ preparation day;

13 | John 20:1, 15, 16

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

14 | I Corinthians 15:55, 57 thanks

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

57 thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Section 5
Science and Health*

24 | 316:20–21

Christ presents the indestructible man, whom Spirit creates, constitutes, and governs.

25 | 44:5–10

The lonely precincts of the tomb gave Jesus a refuge from his foes, a place in which to solve the great problem of being. His three days' work in the sepulchre set the seal of eternity on time. Jesus in the tomb

9 He proved Life to be deathless and Love to be the master of hate.

26 | 46:13–17, 20–24

The Master said plainly that physique was not Spirit, and after his resurrection he proved to the physical senses that his body was not changed until he himself ascended, — or, in other words, rose even higher in the understanding of Spirit, God. Corporeality and Spirit

Jesus' unchanged physical condition after what seemed to be death was followed by his exaltation above all material conditions; and this exaltation explained his ascension, and revealed unmistakably a probationary and progressive state beyond the grave. Spiritual ascension

27 | 582:21

21 **BURIAL.** Corporeality and physical sense put out of sight and hearing; annihilation. Submergence in Spirit; immortality brought to light.

28 | 262:9

9 We cannot fathom the nature and quality of God's creation by diving into the shallows of mortal belief. We must reverse our feeble flutterings — our efforts to find life and truth in matter — and rise above the testimony of the material senses, above the mortal to the immortal idea of God. These clearer, higher views inspire the God-like man to reach the absolute centre and circumference of his being.

*Section 6
The Bible*

15 | Psalms 118:14, 17

14 The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

16 | Psalms 116:9

9 I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

17 | Psalms 23:6

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Section 6
Science and Health*

29 | 487:3–6

3 Life is deathless. Life is the origin and ultimate of man, never attainable through death, but gained by walking in the pathway of Truth both before and

6 after that which is called death.

Exercise
of Mind-
faculties

30 | 224:8

9 There should be painless progress, attended by life and peace instead of discord and death.

31 | 15:25–30

Christians rejoice in secret beauty and bounty, hidden from the world, but known to God. Self-forgetfulness,

27 purity, and affection are constant prayers. Trustworthy

Practice not profession, understanding not

beneficence

belief, gain the ear and right hand of omnipotence and

30 they assuredly call down infinite blessings.

32 | 578:16

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness]

18 of [LOVE] for ever.