

*The Heavens Declare the Glory of God and the Earth
Sheweth Forth His Handiwork.*

God Alone Is Great.



Discourse by
The Rev. Dr. A. S. Phillips
Before the
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May 20th, 1940

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Sermon

GOD ALONE IS GREAT

In the beginning of creation, God said: let there be a firmament over the waters; and let it divide the waters from the waters (margin) and it was so. Let the earth bring forth grass, and it was so. And God said: let there be light in the firmament of Heaven to give light upon the earth to divide the day from the night, and let them be signs for seasons, for days and for years, and it was so; these two great lights are the Sun and Moon, but He made the stars also.

Let the waters bring forth abundantly, fowl to fly, great whales and every living creature that moveth in the waters, and it was so; and God saw that it was good. Let the earth bring forth every living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping things, and beast of the earth after his kind, and it was so. And God saw it was good. Let us make man in our image, after our image, and let them have dominion over everything that we have created: over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, over the cattle and over the earth; and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth: the earth is the food producer, the store house and treasure of the dispensations.

Let us observe that the sixth day's work was the fullest; all big creature and man were made on the sixth day. Five times we have the phrase: And it was so; and sixth times the phrase, God saw that it was good. Man is made innocent, made to love; he loves quickly. Man is put under the Edenic Covenant, put into the garden of Eden a full grown innocent love man. However, these are only shows of His handiwork.

These are great, but His greatest works are in the Heavens; the great-

est mysteries are in the Heavens, and the Heavens are silent speakers of God's glory. Astronomy is still the oldest and most sacred science, it is exact, but very fascinating. The stars are more fascinating than earthly objects. they are rulers over human destiny; and are more wonderful than planets. The earth is measured but the Heavens cannot be measured.

The stars are innumerable. These burning gems, set in the infinite dome of the skies, by the Great Builder of Worlds have the same relative position which they held when man was first put into Paradise and when the Psalmist of Israel gazed on the firmament from the hills around Bethlehem, Jerusalem and his Judean palace, and they still shine on with the same brilliancy which gladdened the Chaldean shepherds and the wise men from the East.

Look up any night when the sky is clear and you will see the same sentinel star which God of old commanded to guard the throne of the Eternal North.

Arcturus and his sons are still circling around the North Pole called polaris as they were when Yahme Havah (Jehovah) answered Job out of the whirlwind and challenged him to lead forth this prince of the ethereal hosts on his way.

Arcturus sends forth much light, five hundred times as great as our noonday, and still our sun is more than one million times that of our earth; and yet one star in the Pleides is equal in glory to twelve hundred of our suns; and there are eighteen million of suns in the system to which our sun belongs.

No wonder David writes: The Heavens declare the Glory of God, for indeed, God alone is great.

Orion is still girt with his blazing bands as he climbs the vast ascent of the western sky. Look west on early evening and you will see a bright star of the first magnitude: that is Orion, he will soon change position to eastern skies: winter is time to see it in the west.

The sweet influences of the Pleiades are still unbound and the signs and seasons are still numbered upon the glittering belt of Mazzaroth.

There they stand from century to century upheld by the invisible Hand in the silent and mysterious depth of space.

Every star is a sun and many of them a million times larger than our earth, and yet, there is no collision, no falling out of the ranks and no change of place, and no decrease in brightness. David, lost in the admiration of the star studded heavens, cries out, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the Son of Man that Thou visitest him?

The whole order of human society has been changed many times and new ones set up, while the roll of ages sweeps along, but the hosts of Heaven are marshalled forth in the same symmetrical order upon the measureless boundaries of space.

The clouds and tempest of earth have not dimmed the light of stars, the shock of armies has not reached them, and the thunder of ten times ten thousands of battles have not shaken one gem from the diadem of night.

No hostile hand nor band has intimidated Mercury and Venus, sons of the morning from their flaming and singing thrones. God alone is Great. The unwearied and unaided Hand of God, still upholds the firmament with its millions of worlds. No Arch-Angel has lifted the standard of discord upon the plains of Heaven.

God still preserves the order, harmony and the everlasting beauty of

the Infinite Hosts. Nations may rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; the earth may shake with the marching of armies, and the day may be turned into night, by the battles of the air; but the unseen Hands that hold the immensity of worlds in their places will surely preserve order on this little spot of earth where we dwell when He gets ready. The doors of our Father's house, will be thrown open and you will be free to go through all its pentatrillion mansions with their infinite delights.

Wings of light will be given to Saints to go through the spacious and mighty kingdom. Angels shall stand ready to introduce us to company, while going through this mighty squared kingdom. They will tell you some of the many things they have learned in millions of years of study and praise and may sing a few of their angelic songs for you.

Then with wings that never get weary, you will sweep on with the brilliancy of suns upon your path, with the rush of planets around you; with the immortal sons of the morning for your guides, with the spirit of just men made perfect, you shall pass over immeasurable space, where towering constellations scale the heights of eternity; where infinite abysses of starry worlds shall be swallowed up into depths unfathomable.

Then before you shall see the life everlasting in which to learn how much God has done for His creatures and His own glory.

When I consider Thy Heavens, the work of Thy Fingers: the moon and the stars which Thou has made the Heavens declare Thy Glory. The astronomer cannot reach the boundaries of space, although he uses a measuring line, two hundred million miles in length, still his measurement is like a grain of sand to the globe he treads or like one man picking up shells upon a boundless shore

and as he picks up one two falls.
God alone is Great.

Astronomers have discovered four thousand such systems; and more than seventy-two million suns, and every sun surrounded by lesser worlds. If we had the experience of Arch-Angels and could fly with the swiftness of light and could spend millions of years travelling from world to world, surveying the works of God, we would be compelled to say with more meaning than Job: Lo these are parts of His ways; but the thunder of His power who can understand?

This God alone is Great, because He is the living and True God, the only self-existent Being. Our earth of today, supports two billion of human beings; every one has a distinct and independent life, and God that is alone great, sees every one, and cares for them; feeds the sparrows, numbers the hairs of heads, and upholds all things and all worlds with the word of His power: He spake: it was done. He commended and it stood fast. David says, Jehovah, the eyes of all wait upon Thee and Thou givest them their meat in due season. The mighty God claims and deserves our first and highest thoughts and our purest and most sincere affection; for the measureless fields and the unfathomable deep are full of His Glory.

His law or will is the law that the suns and systems obey, since from His loving Heart flow forth waves of blessings to every creature in the universe.

The city of God shall fling wide its golden gates, the harps and voices of innumerable Angels shall be lifted up in songs of welcome to bliss, proclaimed and crowned as the ransomed of the Lord, to find a better life and a better home than Eve and Adam. God's greatest glories are in the heavens; when the evening

star came forth over the dark mountain of Moab and the blazing constellations rode up the eastern heavens, in the same orderly parade, night after night: one may ask with deep earnestness, whose hand is this which led forth the fiery host upon the fields of light; and what unseen power preserved the celestial armies with unbroken rank from age to age. What mighty magazines have been stored up from of old to keep numberless fires burning over our heads like fiery and electrical lanterns from century to century? And as we behold the flower with its fading beauty, the birds with their morning songs, the evening fleecy clouds that curtained the couch of the setting sun with its crimson glory and the rainbow that spanned the pathway of the retreating storm with its seven-fold arch. And as the human family scattered in their world-wide dispersion, from the guarded gate of Eden, and from the sandy plains of Shinar; they saw the same masonry upon the battlements of the heavens; and the same bright eyes of the firmament looking down with tender pity, and in the midst of all this splendor of that mighty habitation, whose apartments are suns and systems of universes, exalted upon the throne in the great capital of the Universal Empire, you will see one like unto the Son of God; and when you see in His hands the scars of the conflict through which He passed in this world, that He might bring us to that high and holy habitation, you will understand better than you do now, how much the Infinite and Eternal God, loved the race of mankind in giving His only Begotten Son to the shame and agony of the Cross to bring many sons to the blessedness and joy of Heaven.

We rejoice that in leaving the shining steps of mortality we will ascend to the throne of the Eternal Creator, where He will open before

us the glory and blessedness of eternal life.

He adopts us as His own children, makes us heirs of His immeasurable riches, gives us the aions of aions in which to possess and enjoy our inheritance into the glorious light and liberty of the children of God. Hence David cries out: I praise Thee Oh Lord for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Ambassadors of God, your God alone is Great. Ambassadors, march on; only a few more battle cries, a few more burdens to bear; then God will put laurels upon your brow and from the Living Fountain of Heaven; will bathe off the sweat, smooth the toil, the heat, the dust of mortal conflicts and wipe away the cause of tears from all eyes. Then Jesus sitting upon His throne at the right hand of God: will surrender the power which was given to Him, you will see Him turning back the kingdom of Saints to His Father and God will be all in all eternity.

Finally, the science of Astronomy is much illustrated and illuminated in the Holy Scriptures. Balaam says: There shall come a star out of Jacob. And God said to Abraham: I will bless thee and multiply thy seed as the stars of Heaven.

The Lord said Jehovah to Job, oh Job: when the morning stars sang and all the Sons of God shouted together for joy; where wast thou?

Oh Job: Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the pleides, or loose the bands of Orion?

Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his seasons or guide Arcturus with his sons?

And Matthew writes: Lo the star which they saw in the East went

before them till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

And in the verse before the last five of the New Testament: Jesus says: I am the Root and Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.

Jehovah reveals Himself as the Self-Existent One: under the following names which meet every need of mankind:

El or Elah: Strong One.

El Shaddai: Almighty God.

El Olam: Everlasting God.

El Elyon: Most High God.

El Abba: God our Father.

El Adonai: Lord God, the adored One.

Elohim: Creator.

Jehovah-Jireh: the Lord will provide.

Jehovah-Rapha: the Lord our Healer or the Lord that heals.

Jehovah-Nissi: the Lord our banner.

Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our peace.

Jehovah-ra-ah: the Lord my Shepherd.

Jehovah-Tsikenu: the Lord our righteousness.

Jehovah-Shamah: the Lord is present.

Jehovah is the All Covering One, He alone is Great. He is Jehovah Sabaoth: the Lord God of Hosts.

Army of the Living God, march on. Soldiers of Calvary, march on. God's Spirit will bless you, His shield will protect you, His sword will strike for you. March on saints of the Most High; His Son's Blood has cleansed you. His truth will make you free, and His word will defend you. God alone is Great.

Amen and Amen.

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