

"HEAR YE HIM"

A Devotional Series For Radio

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The Sermon: GOD'S WORDS NEVER CEASE

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants, Section 22; Paragraphs 2, 21, 23 (abridged)

And God spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, I am the Lord God Almighty, and Endless is my name, for I am without beginning of days or end of years; and is not this endless? And the Lord God said unto Moses, For mine own purposes have I made these things And by the word of my power have I created them, which is mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth. And worlds without number have I created, and I also created them for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten The heavens they are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man, but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine; and as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

His paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.

During the Middle Ages and before, men believed in a man-centered world, and in a world-centered universe. It was commonly believed that man was the most important of God's creations; therefore it followed that the earth, which had been created for his dwelling place, must be the center of all heavenly bodies. It was Copernicus, who lived from 1473 to 1543, who first suggested that the sun, and not the earth, was the center of the universe. That was a step toward the truth, but it was not the whole truth. The sun is the center of our tiny solar system, which consists of the sun, nine planets, and about thirty moons; but our entire solar system is only a tiny speck in space, and the ancients had little or no concept of astronomical space.

As late as a hundred years ago, the solar system was still the principal concern of astronomers, because their telescopes were not powerful enough to plumb the depths of outer space. H. Henry Carbedian, on page 293 of his book "Major Mysteries of Science," published in 1933, says: "The small family that makes up the solar system -- the sun, moon and planets -- was all that concerned the astronomy of a century ago."

Modern telescopes have revealed a vastness and a wonder of the heavens above us that surpass anything that man's mind may conceive or his imagination invent. Try to follow these astronomical facts and figures with us, if you can do

so without getting dizzy. As we have said, our earth is one of nine planets and thirty moons that make up our solar system. How much space does our own little sun need in which to complete its orbit? The sun and its planets travel around a center of gravity at a speed of 200 miles per second. At that speed, it takes 220 million years for the sun to complete one orbit. How many miles are in the circumference of that orbit? To find out, all you have to do is to multiply 220 million (the number of years) by 31 million, 536 thousand, (the number of seconds in a year) and then multiply the answer by another 200, (the miles traveled per second.) The answer is approximately 1 1/3 billion billion miles!

With 1 1/3 billion billion miles required for our own little solar system as a sort of starter, we learn next that there are at least ten billion stars in the galaxy of which our sun is a part. Most of these ten billion stars or suns in this galaxy are larger than our sun, which is only one of the ten billion. But that is not all. Dr. Berkhoff of Harvard University says in the Science News Letter for February 9, 1946, that there are eleven billion galaxies like the one of which our sun is a part. Some of these eleven billion galaxies are one thousand million light years away. Light travels 186,300 miles per second. The distance which light travels in one year is a light year -- a convenient measure of distance devised by the astronomers. Our

Milky Way -- just one of the galaxies of stars -- is said to be some 300 thousand light years in diameter.

Not too long ago we thought that the universe we lived in was stable. Religious people believed that God had completed his work of creation when he finished the world, and had then retired to a more or less passive life of ordering and managing that which he had created. In June of 1830, Joseph Smith dared to challenge that concept. He proclaimed as God's words to him: "The heavens are many, and they cannot be numbered unto man, but they are numbered unto me, for they are mine; and as one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Is the universe stable? We know now that the universe is expanding with explosive speed, that new worlds and new galaxies are continually being formed. Sir James Jeans says that "there are vast colonies of stars whose number compares with the sands of the seashore - being born - living their lives - and dying." Now we know too that every single atom is alive; that it contains a miniature solar system in which protons, electrons, and neutrons are continually circulating in a well-ordered orbit.

Is the work of creation still going on? Are old worlds passing away? The mystery of the cosmic rays is one of the riddles of the universe, but it is believed that they are due to the building of heavier elements out of lighter ones somewhere in outer space. We know that they can penetrate 30 feet of lead-- that they have been counted in a mine under 1000 feet of solid rock. We know that it would take a 60 million volt X-ray tube to duplicate even the milder forms of the cosmic ray. It has been pretty well proved that these cosmic rays which are constantly bombarding the earth from outer space, are not only destructive -- breaking up millions of atoms every second -- but constructive -- at the same time actually creating and restoring matter. Cosmic rays furnish one explanation

of how the sun pours out heat a million times greater than could result from any known chemical reaction, and still does not seem to be diminishing. God's work of creation is eternally carried on by these -- and perhaps by other rays. There is no end to his works, nor to his words.

In the kind of vastness which we have so feebly described, it would seem that man was so infinitesimal and insignificant that he would be completely beneath the notice of an Eternal God wise enough and powerful enough to carry out such works of creation. Yet the third part of our prophetic saying assures us that "This is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and the eternal life of man." Even though the earth is not the center of the universe, man is one of the crowning achievements of God's creation, and he takes the same loving care in the perfecting of a man as he does in the perfecting of the forces which create and order billions of galaxies of stars. If this seems strange and incomprehensible, it should be remembered that the orbits of the atoms and molecules are no less perfect than the orbits of the solar system with a circumference of seven million million miles. There is the same perfection in the microscopic eye of a common house fly that there is in the pattern of the stars in the Milky Way. God's work and glory is still, and ever shall be, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. To this end were all things created. To this end he gave his Only Begotten Son. To this end worlds may pass away, and other worlds emerge from their chaos. But God's works never cease.

If we can accept this fact, it follows that the God who is not too busy to order the atoms and molecules, or to construct the eye of a fly, is not too busy or too unconcerned to continue his words, as well as his works. The scoffer, the cynic, the unbeliever cannot see God moving in majesty and glory in his vast handiwork of space. No more can he hear the voice of God, which still speaks to men who are tuned to hear. But to the reverent, the devout, the alert and eager, his words continue to flow, that man might find immortality and eternal life.