

# "HEAR YE HIM"

## A Devotional Series For Radio

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The Sermon: GOD MOVING IN MAJESTY AND POWER

Scripture: Doctrine and Covenants 85:12

The earth rolls upon her wings; and the sun giveth his light by day, and the moon giveth her light by night; and the stars also give their light, as they roll upon their wings, in their glory, in the midst of the power of God. Unto what shall I liken these kingdoms, that ye may understand? Behold, all these are kingdoms, and any man who hath seen any or the least of these, hath seen God moving in his majesty and power. I say unto you, he hath seen him: nevertheless, he who came unto his own was not comprehended. The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not .....

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All things are created to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual.

One of the delightful aspects of the Sherlock Holmes stories by A. Conan Doyle was the way Sherlock would mystify Dr. Watson by looking intently at a man for a few moments, and then telling a whole assortment of facts about that man -- his place of birth, his probable residence, his occupation, his recent activities. Or perhaps he would go into a room and deduce a whole galaxy of facts about its absent occupant -- his height, weight, interests, hobbies, and habits. How did Sherlock Holmes know these things? Once the process was explained, it was always most simple. Sherlock made it a point to observe things which ordinary men passed by and overlooked as unworthy of notice, but which were obvious to a trained observer.

Archaeologists can tell much about the men of vanished races by the things they have left behind -- about their religion and culture, their diet, art, agriculture, science, their tools and utensils, their learning. We can tell much about a man by the things he writes -- not only by his handwriting, but by his peculiarities in the use of language, his vocabulary, the way he turns his phrases, the length of his sentences, his use of prepositions. It is scientifically possible to say with a fair degree of certainty whether a doubtful piece of literature was or was not written by an author whose other works are known and can be studied.

We can tell much about a craftsman by the work he does on your watch, your car, your radio or television set. If you saw a new house in which none of the corners were square, the doors didn't fit, the plumbing leaked, the foundations were sinking, and the plaster walls cracking, would you know anything about the contractor and builder? What would you deduce about his moral and spiritual character, to say nothing of his skill and craftsmanship as a builder?

Someone has said that if we study one drop of water long enough and thoroughly enough to learn all that there is to know about it, we can deduce from that one drop of water what the ocean is. Perhaps we should not be able to know everything about the ocean. One drop of water wouldn't tell us much about the fish and sharks and whales that live in the ocean -- but we still could know a great deal about the ocean by studying one drop of water.

The poet, Tennyson, once plucked a little flower out of a crannied wall, and held it in his hand to study it. Then he wrote a beautiful little four line poem, saying that if he could understand and know all the mysteries manifested in the life of that one little flower, he would know what God is, and what man is.

We learn the general from the specific. We know the large by first studying

the small. When we let our imaginations tackle the problem of the sweeping, all-pervasive, omnipotence of God -- when we let our minds wander through the trackless vastness of outer space, where distance is measured in fantastic numbers of light years, it seems utterly hopeless and ridiculous for us to suppose that we can ever know God who created all this wonder. But God does not intend that we should know him completely until we have first come to know him in the things he has made and placed before us as a witness to his majesty and power and glory. He has not left himself without witness. The clues are there -- innumerable clues -- which can be seen by the spiritually alert, open-eyed, open-minded man just as easily as Sherlock Holmes saw the clues in the detective stories.

All things testify of God. "Behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me." (Genesis 6:66 Insp. Version) "All things denote that there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion; Yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form, do witness that there is a Supreme Creator." (Alma 16:54,55, Book of Mormon) Psalm 19, according to the Revised Standard Version, says: "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." The Doctrine and Covenants says: "He who has seen any or the least of these, hath seen God moving in his majesty and power." All things speak of a God of order, of intelligence, of purpose, of love.

Men who will not see God or recognize him as Creator and Ruler in the face of all these evidences are without excuse, for as Paul says in the opening verses of the Roman letter: "God hath revealed unto them the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, which are clearly seen; things which are not seen being understood by the things that are made, through his eternal power and God-

head; so that they are without excuse.." So numerous are the evidences which God has left to tell us of himself, that the only man who cannot see them is the man who stubbornly will not see them.

Somewhere I have read a story which is probably a variation of a true story about Henry Ward Beecher, the famous preacher, and Robert G. Ingersoll, the famous infidel. In its original form the story had to do with Beecher's watch, but as I have read it, the story goes that the atheist called on the noted preacher and found in his study a small scale model of the solar system, with sun, moon, earth, and all the other planets arranged and suspended by wires in exact and proper relationship to each other. The atheist admired the workmanship of the model, and finally inquired, "Who made it?" "Nobody made it; it just happened," replied the preacher.

There are some men who can look at the solar system and the innumerable galaxies of stars in the universe and say "They just happened." The light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not. God's light, the light of his creative and sustaining power, is everywhere, in everything. It is in the tiny atom, in the microscopic cell, in the tiniest and humblest flower, in the giant redwood tree, as well as in the flaming sunset or in the distant glow of the Milky Way. His light, his nature, is reflected in the love of man for his fellow-man, in man's sacrifice and devotion to duty or to ideals, even in the face of death.

God is not far from any one of us. Have you seen him moving in his majesty and power? Open your eyes. Look carefully around you with receptive mind and heart and spirit, and you will see evidences of him and indications of his nature in everything. "All things are created to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual." If you have seen any, or the least of God's innumerable kingdoms of creation, and have recognized them for what they are, you have seen God moving in his majesty and power; and if you follow the light, "the day shall come when you shall comprehend even God; being quickened in him, and by him. Then shall ye know that ye have seen me, that I am, and that I am the true light that is in you, and that you are in me....."