



The Spacious Firmament on High



"The spacious firmament on high,
with all the blue ethereal sky
and spangled heavens, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim:
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
does his Creator's pow'r display;
and publishes to every land
the work of an Almighty hand.

"Soon as the evening shades prevail,
the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the list'ning earth
repeats the story of her birth;
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings as they roll
and spread the truth from pole to pole.

"What though, in solemn silence, all
move round this dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound
amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
and utter forth a glorious voice,
forever singing as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine'."

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth ..." - The Apostles' Creed

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." - Psalm 19:1

"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command." - Hebrews 11:3

Today's glorious hymn brings us to the attribute of God that is the most important to understand - He is our Creator. As we read in Psalm 100:3, "Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves." We may not be able to fully

understand the scientific details about creation, but we can accept "with reason's ear" the clear witness of the universe to its divine Creator's handiwork.

I say that this is the most important truth to stand upon because if we deny that God is our Creator, we can just as well disregard the rest of Scripture. The very first verse of the Bible is, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." This is a straightforward statement that assumes the existence of a divine Creator, and throughout the Bible you will find this fact stated repeatedly. We must accept the truth that He is God, and we are not. Unfortunately, we are surrounded by people and ideologies that run counter to this assumption.

We read in Hebrews 11:3, "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible." And Paul writes so powerfully in Romans 1:18-20:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

We need to have a good understanding of creation vs. the theory of evolution. We can be too easily intimidated by the assertions of those who are convinced that life as we know it all happened by chance. They may think that we Christians have put our intelligence "on the shelf" in order to believe in a divine Creator, but it is actually those who attribute the incredibly vast and intricate creation of the universe to some unknown source, rather than the "Original" who made them, who are not thinking. The Bible calls them fools (Psalm 14:1), for they suppress the truth in order to believe an obvious lie, worshiping the creature rather than the Creator.

Today's hymn was originally a poem written in 1712 by Joseph Addison, one of England's outstanding writers. Interestingly, the music comes from "The Creation" written by Franz Hayden. These verses were part of a larger piece titled, "An Essay on the Proper Means of Strengthening and Confirming Faith in the Mind of Man." Addison prefaced his work with the words: "The Supreme Being has made the best arguments for His own existence in the formation of the heavens and the earth."

Indeed, any thinking person would agree, for they recognize "the work of an Almighty hand" in the design and order of His creation. Nothing can come from nothing, as evolutionists want us to believe. Rather, as Joseph Addison wrote so long ago, may we rejoice with all creation, singing as we shine, "The Hand that made us is divine!"