

[Note by James Bruggeman: The following article by the late and beloved Howard Rand is taken from *Destiny* magazine, February, 1950.]

Radiant Light and Life

By HOWARD B. RAND

IN HIS OBSERVATIONS preliminary to his main discourse in the Book of Romans Paul speaks of God's anger against those who, because of their impiety, pervert the truth. He declares that so-called wise men are actually stupid and, while professing to be philosophers, they have played the part of fools. He points out the fact that knowledge of God is clearly manifest, having been revealed to mankind in His mighty works:

"For from creating a Universe His unseen attributes, power, and Divine nature might have been clearly comprehended by means of the created facts." (Rom. 1: 20, *Ferrar Fenton Trans.*)

Because all creation demonstrates God, the Apostle declares of the worldly wise:

"So they have no excuse, for, though they knew God, they have not honored him as God or given thanks to him, but they have indulged in futile speculations, until their stupid minds have become dark." (Rom. 1: 21-22, *Smith & Goodspeed Trans.*)

When we pause to consider God's mighty work of creation in the beginning it is important to note the primary definition of the word create which means "to cause to be" or "to come into existence"; especially "to produce out of nothing." Scientists today have become cognizant of what the Bible has all the time declared to be so, that the universe was created out of nothing; but even while knowing this, they do not recognize God as the Creator. Contemplating the majestic order of creation, John provides the information that in the beginning Jesus Christ, the WORD, was present:

"The WORD existed in the beginning, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. He was present with God at the beginning. All came into existence by means of Him; and nothing came into existence apart from Him." (John 1: 1-3, *Ferrar Fenton Trans.*)

The phrase "came into existence" implies that substance or matter was nonexistent prior to the first creative act. Science has now arrived at this same profound conclusion. A most interesting article titled "Science Proves the Story of Creation" by Norman

Carlisle in the magazine *Coronet* for December 1949 reports recent scientific findings in relation to the creation of the universe. Throughout the ages men of God have accepted these facts by faith which are only now becoming apparent to men of science who, in spite of this revelation, still refuse to give God the honor and glory.

The story published in *Coronet* is fascinating and breathtaking as it tells how scientists have contributed the results of their research to reconstruct a graphic picture of the creation of the universe. Many mysteries that have baffled men for centuries have now been solved. We recommend this article to the attention of every Bible student, for it throws interesting light upon the authenticity of the records of the Scriptures. Mr. Carlisle points out that, whether by the examination of radioactivity in the ancient rock structure of the earth, or the study of the revolutions of the Milky Way and their effect upon star clusters, or in the examination of the tremendous speed of a fleeing universe reversed to its starting point, science has now been able to pin-point the time of creation. Through mathematical calculations involving all these factors, it is now recognized that the universe was born in a matter of minutes, in a single tremendous act of creation in a given place in space. In confirmation of this conclusion we have in the opening statement of the Book of Genesis a short sentence encompassing the macrocosmic sweep of creation:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1: 1.)

For years scholars have tried to solve the age of the earth. Now, according to independent scientific calculations arrived at by the three methods described above, the time of the beginning of creation is established as between two and three billion years ago. Quoting Mr. Carlisle:

"This primordial life stuff of the universe must have been made up of sheer energy, blazing with inconceivable power — energy so overwhelming that, by comparison, the heart of an atomic bomb is a mere firecracker. How long it had been there, where it had come from to begin with, the scientists of course cannot even imagine. They cannot probe behind Time: Zero."

What the scientists are unable to comprehend the man of God through faith understands. Just as the absolute in purity originates with God, so also sheer energy is a Divine attribute expressed in Bible terms as "power" or "mighty power." Jeremiah understood this and of God he said:

"He hath made the earth by his power [the sheer energy of which the scientists now speak], he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding." (Jer. 51: 15.)

Ferrar Fenton renders this verse:

"He made the earth by His power,
By His knowledge, He formed the spheres,
And spread out the skies by His skill!"

Some day men of science will cease ignoring the Word of God and will instead turn to it for information and guidance. Prior to the beginning of time — the Zero hour when the universe was born — the power of God was there, out of which pure energy He created all things. He is the First Cause and John adds that before the beginning of creation Jesus Christ, the WORD, was there. The Apostle continues his theme to show that the energy or power originating with God was used to bring into being, created out of nothing by an act of His will, all the visible things of the present universe. In the Book of Revelation we are informed:

"For you created all things; by your will they existed and were created." (Rev. 4: 11, *Smith & Goodspeed Trans.*)

How the atheists have seized upon the statement, in the step-by-step account of the restoration of the earth to its previous state of perfection, that God said, "Let there be light" (Gen. 1:3) long before the sun and moon were placed in the firmament to give

light by day and by night. It was not until the fourth day, or period, that actual reference is made to the placing of the sun and moon in their orbital relationship to the earth (Gen. 1: 14-18). We know the process of restoring the earth, which had become void and without form, followed the pattern of the original creative act because the question concerning how light came into being before the sun and moon gave light is answered by the recent discoveries of science. These findings prove the Bible account to have been accurately written and the atheists to be wholly in error, for Mr. Carlisle states:

"At the zero hour, there must have been some tremendous stirring . . . the shattering thrust of pure driving energy which started the race through space. Not a race of stars or solid pieces of matter, only of radiant energy."

God had issued the command, "Let there be light!" In fulfillment of the edict the radiant burst of Divine energy, generating billions of degrees of heat, would certainly dwarf into insignificant dimness the light and heat of a million suns. Mr. Carlisle then concludes:

"In one fantastic hour after the cosmic explosion, all the 92 elements had been formed! In one hour there they were — all the atoms that would make all the galaxies, planets, suns, all the substances in the earth, even all living creatures! Nothing would ever be added!"

Though science has in this way presented a vivid portrayal of the creation of matter, yet the most profound mystery of all creation is still unsolved. Mr. Carlisle asks

the question:

"How did life emerge from the nuclear fluid that became cosmic dust that became the suns and the planets?"

Science will wait a long, long time before it will secure the solution to this mystery unless it turns to the Bible for the answer to its question. There we are told:

"What originated in Him was Life; and the Life was the Light of Mankind. That Light shines in the darkness; but the darkness did not absorb it." (John 1: 4-5, *Ferrar Fenton Trans.*)

Smith & Goodspeed translate this:

"It was by him that life came into existence, and that life was the light of mankind. The light is still shining in the darkness, for the darkness has never put it out."

Just as Divine energy was used to create matter, so, too, the origin of life itself is in the life of God. The Greek word here translated "life" is *zoe* and it means fountain of life. A note in Appendix 170 of *The Companion Bible* states:

"*Zoe*: life in all its manifestations; from the life of God down to the lowest vegetable. It is life in activity, and thus especially is the opposite of death. It involves resurrection life and eternal life; and hence, as such, is the 'gift of God.' "

Darkness, or death, has never been able to put out the light of radiant life from God who breathed the spirit of life into His created beings when, following the creation of the universe, the time came when the earth and planets were able to sustain life. The process of creation still continues, as pointed out in "Created and Formed," *DESTINY* for September 1949, a fact of Scriptural teaching now confirmed by the scientists in their analysis of the brilliantly blazing new stars of comparatively recent origin. Because of these facts, Mr. Carlisle states:

"Having reconstructed the past, the scientists are now looking at the present. They have come up with a surprising revelation — far from being tired, old and run-down, the universe is active, still fresh enough to be in the throes of creation!"

We have known from an understanding of the Divine plan that humanity is but upon the threshold as it were of a stupendous future that stretches out before us into infinity. This fact is clearly borne out by the subject matter presented in "The Unique Position of Man," *DESTINY* for October 1949. Scientists are now confirming what men of faith have already recognized to be true, that the universe is still only in the throes of creation, with immeasurable possibilities of unfolding developments before mankind. God has only just begun His great work of creation insofar as the future of the human race is concerned. No wonder Isaiah exclaimed:

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him." (Isa. 64: 4.)

Moffat, in translating this statement, renders a part of the verse as follows:

"No ear has ever heard, no eye has ever seen, the mighty deeds that thou wilt do for those who look to thee."

But what of death? Paul informs us that the last enemy that will be destroyed is death (1 Cor. 15: 26). Now death, or darkness, seems to have been conqueror, for all mankind is subject to its power. But God has decreed that this darkness shall not absorb life. If there were to be no resurrection, we might conclude that life has been absorbed by darkness. But this is not to be, for He who is the giver of life is also the author of resurrection of life. When Lazarus died Martha told Jesus that, if He had been there, her brother would not have died:

"Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11: 23-25.)

The Bible refers to a day coming when the outshining glory of the Coming of the Lord will be the signal announcing the time of the resurrection. It was a tremendous outburst of pure radiant energy that brought about the birth of the universe and created matter, making the coming into being of life possible upon the earth. Will it be the outshining glory of the radiant light of His Divine presence, preceding the coming of Him who is the Resurrection and the Life, that will penetrate the darkness of the shadow of death and awaken those who now slumber in Sheol? Will this penetrating light of the coming Glory of the Lord reach into the furthest recesses of the grave and into the depth of the sea to renew life for those who have long since passed from life into death? Is this the process by which the fulfillment of Paul's summation will come about:

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Rom.8: 21-23.)

As the Spirit of the Lord brooded over the earth when it was without form and void, so His Spirit broods today over Sheol, the abode of the departed who are under

cover of the darkness of death. Presently the summons will come, "Let there be life!" Then will be fulfilled:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."
(1 Thess. 4: 16)

The grave will give up its dead, for death and darkness will not be ultimately triumphant. In the resurrection each one will arise to take his place along with the living in the part each is to occupy in a glorious future as the unfolding revelation of a progressive creation continues on illimitably into the eons of ages before us.

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