Heavens Declare the Glory of God: Questions and Answers
Concerning God's Vast Universe Part 2

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The HEAVENS DECLARE
the GLORY of GOD

Questions and Answers Concerning God's Vast Universe

PART TWO

By

S. H. SUTHERLAND, D. D.
and

LOUIS T. TALBOT, D. D.
THE HEAVENS DECLARE
THE GLORY OF GOD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Concerning
GOD’S VAST UNIVERSE
Part Two

Presented over the ABC Radio Network
By
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Los Angeles 13, California
STATIONS OVER WHICH
THE BIBLE INSTITUTE OF THE AIR
MAY NOW BE HEARD
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

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FOREWORD

This is the second and concluding booklet presenting Dr. Sutherland's answers to our questions on astronomy during these morning broadcasts. We are grateful for this information, given in terms which we, as laymen, can understand. Having been given this glimpse of the power and majesty of God, as seen in His creation, we shall always see in the starry sky, as never before, something of what the psalmist meant when he said,

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork."

Even the unsaved man who acknowledges the existence of a Supreme Being admits that the heavens above tell of the glory of God; but to appreciate this glory, one must see it in its proper perspective. This can be done only by those who have entered into a right relationship with the Lord of all creation through faith in Jesus Christ, the Creator and the only Saviour of sinners. The man of the world sees in the stars evidence of design; but, alas, at that point he stops in his thinking. The Christian goes on to the glorious conclusion that such design must have a Designer. He recognizes that Designer to be none other than the One whom he lovingly calls "Father"; for the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things were made (John 1:3, 10; Col. 1:16; Heb. 2:10) is one with the Father. Our Triune God is one God.

This gives point and purpose to all creation, for what father would not do all he could for his children? The extent of a loving father's giving is limited only by his ability to provide. In the case of our Father in heaven, His ability is limitless; therefore, our heritage exceeds our wildest imagination.
It is our prayer that the realization of this truth may stir us to a deeper loyalty to our heavenly Father; and that the contents of this booklet may bring to many unsaved individuals a consciousness of the infinite loss awaiting those who reject the invitation of the Lord Jesus Christ,

"Come unto me . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Finding rest of heart in His great salvation, they will find also, in ever-increasing measure, some conception of His majesty and power and glory, revealed to us in His vast universe; for our Creator is our Saviour, whose handiwork reveals something of His eternal majesty, His measureless power, and His uncreated glory.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, the figures which you have been giving in regard to the size of the stars are too big for me to comprehend.

Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, let me explain them in this way. Imagine that you were able to stand on the surface of the great star, Betelgeuse, to which we referred in our last broadcast. Suppose you had in your hands a high-powered rifle which you fired in such a direction that the bullet would swing all the way around that great sun. And suppose it could continue at the same rate of speed that it was traveling when it left the muzzle of the gun. If you waited for that bullet to come back to its starting point, you would have to stay there for 58 years. This helps us to understand a little more of Job's philosophy, expressed when he said of God, "He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who . . . alone spreadeth out the heavens, and . . . maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades" (Job 9:4, 8, 9).

Dr. Talbot: Our sun would be practically lost inside this great star, would it not?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, it would. As a matter of fact, if this sun of ours were located in the center of a ball the size of Betelgeuse, the orbit of the earth would be completely inside that ball, and we should have to travel 15 million miles farther to get to the surface of that star. This gives you some idea of its size. Of course, Antares with its larger diameter, on the same scale, would extend clear out beyond the orbit of Mars. An airplane traveling two hundred miles an hour would require 114 years to pass through that giant star, Antares. Incidentally, Dr. Talbot, you may be interested to know that the light from the star, Antares, requires approximately 350 years to reach us. In other words, when the light we see from
Antares tonight left that star, America had been discovered but a short time. That light has been travelling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second ever since, and we see the star shining brightly tonight. We do not know whether the star is still there or not. We only know that it was in existence over 350 years ago. But we have every reason to believe that it is still out there. I am looking forward to visiting that great sun sometime, and we shall not get burned when we visit it either. We shall be able to see some of the beauties that are withheld from our vision now, and we shall surely enjoy and appreciate them when we get our resurrection bodies.

Dr. Talbot: As we have been thinking about these things, we have become increasingly small in our own estimation. I do not feel as important just now as I did even a few mornings ago when we talked about the earth, our own sun, and our own solar system; and I felt very unimportant at that time. In these studies we are really getting out there into space, seeing some of the big things in God's creation. Remember, in "The Gospel According to John," the Holy Spirit says concerning Jesus Christ,

"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3).

That statement begins to take on a new significance to me, Dr. Sutherland. To think that this same Jesus who made all of these things is my own Lord and Saviour! It is a fact that gives each one of us comfort during times of trial or stress through which we pass.

Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, those really are big things; and when we talk about our own galactic system, we are lost in the immeasurable distances involved. Do you realize that this galaxy of ours is but one of probably millions of galaxies out there in space? We cannot see them; but there are systems just like our own, each with its own group of suns, each revolving around its own common center, and each carrying out in a truly majestic manner the thing that God has appointed it to do. As we look out at these stars in the heavens on a clear night, somehow there comes to our mind a stability of thought that is indeed comforting and reassuring during these days of fluctuation and utter confusion in the world. We are able to look up into the heavens night after night and see those same sentinels of God marching across the sky with a majestic grandeur that is awe-inspiring. They are always in their places, always shining forth their light, always doing that which God has intended them to do. Very pertinent lessons may be found for us in the "message of the stars."

Dr. Talbot: Yes, Dr. Sutherland, there is a message for us there. Just as those stars are constantly giving forth their light, so we should be bearers of the Light of the world, even Jesus Christ Himself. As you were speaking a moment ago of the spiritual application to be derived from a study of the stars, I was thinking of the fact that our Lord said,

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35).

That gives us a reassuring confidence in this Book which we call the Bible, does it not? To think that in the ages to come, after millions upon millions of years shall have passed, at some time in the eternity ahead, heaven shall pass away; that is, the starry firmament as we know it will pass away, or at least will be changed; but after all of that, God's Word will yet remain even as we have it now! His Word abideth forever! We can surely rest in confidence upon such a Word as that! Moreover, the reasonable, thinking individual can accept the glorious message of salvation which the Bible presents.
Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, we have not begun to get out into space yet. We are still dealing with our next door neighbor, astronomically speaking. We are still in our own little family.

Dr. Talbot: If that is true, Dr. Sutherland, let us move along. Let us hear what you have to say about some of those other systems of which you spoke some time ago.

Dr. Sutherland: I think I said that there is another galaxy in the constellation of Andromeda that is very similar to our own. It has thirty thousand million or more suns, and it is doing its job just as our galaxy is doing the job assigned to it. We look out in the sky on a clear night and see that great galaxy as a tiny dot of light. Remember, I said that it takes light 100,000 years to get from one edge of our galaxy to the opposite edge. The light which we see from this great "island universe" (as it is also called in the constellation of Andromeda) left there 870,000 years ago, and it is just reaching us now. Imagine what distance is involved when you realize that light travels 186,000 miles a second, and that it has been traveling 870,000 years—almost a million years! Incidentally, that is the closest island universe to our own. All between us is nothing but space. If you can imagine the emptiness of "nothing," then you know what is out there.

Dr. Talbot: Do you mean to say that there is all of that space between our galaxy and that great system 870,000 light years away? What is it like out there where there is absolutely nothing?

Dr. Sutherland: To tell you the truth, I do not know. In fact, it is almost impossible for us to imagine absolutely nothing, is it not? If we were out there, completely away from the beneficent effect of our own sun with its light and warmth, it would be a constant midnight. And it would be cold—exceedingly cold.

Dr. Talbot: I'm glad to be down on this earth, in spite of all the difficulties we are having at the present time. It suits my physical body very well after all! But how are we going to travel around, up there in our spiritual bodies which you have mentioned? Will it not be rather lonesome, moving around in those vast reaches of space?

Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, that brings up a most fascinating subject; namely, the nature of our resurrection bodies. We have mentioned the different rates of speed at which various things travel. So far, light has seemed to us to travel the fastest. But there is something that travels faster than light, and that is mind. For instance, you look at the North Star. The light you see has been forty-four years coming from that star to the earth. Yet you can imagine yourself sitting up there on the North Star just as easily and just as quickly as you can imagine yourself sitting on top of the City Hall right here in Los Angeles. In other words, with the mind, distance is completely eliminated; and we travel, as it were, instantaneously. I believe that when we get our resurrection bodies, we shall be able to travel at the speed of mind rather than at the comparatively slow speed of light. We have a perfect example of that fact. With His resurrection body, our Lord Jesus Christ did not travel at the speed of light. He travelled instantaneously. One moment He was in a certain place; the next instant he was gone. We are to have bodies "fashioned like unto his glorious body" (Phil. 3:21).

Dr. Talbot: You mean to say, Dr. Sutherland, that after our Lord received His resurrection body, He was not subject to the laws of time or of space as we know them; but
that He was governed by higher laws, of which we know absolutely nothing?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, that is exactly it! When He ascended from the Mount of Olives on that eventful day, we read that "a cloud received him" out of the sight of the wondering apostles. (See Acts 1:9.) He did not have to go to heaven when that cloud received Him; but, regardless of where He was going, immediately He was there. When we have our resurrection bodies, this universe will doubtless become just as familiar to us as our own homes are at present.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, you have certainly given us an interesting picture of what some of our experiences may be after we receive our resurrection bodies! But a few moments ago, you said something about a great galaxy in the constellation of Andromeda. Tell us something more about those other galaxies. Are there any more of them?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, Dr. Talbot. As I said, the constellation of Andromeda is the nearest to our own. Even at that, it takes light almost a million years to get from that great galactic system to us. The other galaxies are so far away that it is impossible for us to see them with the naked eye. However, they have been viewed through the great telescopes in various parts of the country, particularly through the great Hooker Telescope which is on top of Mt. Wilson here in Southern California.

Dr. Talbot: Telescopes are a wonderful invention, are they not?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes they are! One advantage they have over the human eye is that they are so much larger than the human eye. They can, therefore, take in much more light. In the second place, so far as the human eye is concerned, you either see an object or you do not see it. No amount of looking will make visible an object that you cannot see; but with the sensitized, photographic plates, it is possible to focus the telescope upon a spot in the heavens and then allow the plate to accumulate the light. If a particular spot in the heavens is magnified sufficiently by means of lenses, then the photographic plate reveals that there are these great galaxies up there in the heavens.

Dr. Talbot: That is surely interesting! Have astronomers ever estimated the number of different galaxies up there?

Dr. Sutherland: Most astronomers refuse to hazard a guess as to the number of galaxies, but they tell us the figure would run into the millions. If our eyes were only properly tuned, or if we could get them in proper relationship to the night sky, we could discover that it is ablaze with light. In fact, there would be hardly any spots in an ordinary night sky that are not ablaze with light. It is just because our eyes are not properly magnified for us to see the lights that the sky appears dark. Imagine, if you can, the whole night sky many, many times brighter than the Milky Way. That would be a beautiful spectacle, would it not?

Dr. Talbot: It surely would! Do you think we shall ever have eyes to behold such a sight as that?

Dr. Sutherland: I believe that we shall. I believe that when we get our resurrection bodies, "fashioned like unto his glorious body," we shall be able to view that sight. I believe that, as our Lord looked up into the heavens, He could see them in all of their beauty and grandeur. He looked up and saw that His creation was good, and that only man is vile.

Dr. Talbot: What a tragedy it is that when the Creator of the universe, the One who holds these things as in the
hollow of His hand, came to earth to dwell among men, human beings, men who had been created by Him for fellowship with Him, should be so depraved that they could hate Him, mock Him, and crucify Him, the Lord of Glory! It ought to make us hang our heads in shame. It makes me realize anew the wonderful grace of Jesus. Just think! He was willing to go through that suffering, in order that we might enjoy His creation with Him throughout all eternity.

Dr. Sutherland: The glorious part of it is that astronomers refuse to suggest that there might be any limit to this universe of ours. By means of this great telescope on Mt. Wilson, they have photographed galactic systems which they estimate to be at least 500,000,000 light years away. Remember, I said that our own Milky Way galaxy is a hundred thousand light years across. The great galaxy in the constellation of Andromeda is 870,000 light years away, not quite one million light years away. Now just think, galaxies have been photographed that are 500 million light years away!

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, 500 million light years away does not mean anything to me; but do the astronomers believe that those are the limits of our universe?

Dr. Sutherland: No; the astronomers do not believe that there are any limits to our universe. At least, if there are any, there are no known methods of determining what those limits may be. Astronomers believe that the only reason they have not been able to pick up light from galactic systems that are twice 500 million light years away is because the one hundred inch telescope is not powerful enough to collect the faint light from those more distant galaxies. That is the reason a 200 inch telescope is being constructed at this time. We shall mention that again in a few moments. Theoretically, the larger the telescope, the greater its light-drawing power; but actually it does not work out that way because of this great dusty sea of atmosphere which envelops the earth. You must remember that, as the distance is magnified, so are the dust particles and moisture in our atmosphere magnified. When we get it magnified to that extent, it appears as though we were looking at the stars through a fog. That is the reason why these great telescopes are placed on the higher mountain peaks, so that they will be above the surface dust. These higher peaks help somewhat, but they do not completely eliminate this ocean of muddy, mucky atmosphere which envelops the earth. Therefore, scientists tell us that, for the time being, the two hundred inch telescope is about as large as is practicable. But I suppose twice five hundred million light years of distance is far enough out at that!

Dr. Talbot: That ought to convince anyone of the immeasurable distances of space. What a great God we have! He takes these planets of ours and, by the Word of His power, flings them into being and places them in their orbits. He takes the suns and places them in their orbits. He takes these families of suns, or galaxies as they are called, and puts them in their proper places. Surely He is the infinite God! The marvelous part of it is that, through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we are His children. I am beginning to realize anew the significance of the words of the psalmist,

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3, 4).

But you were speaking of a great two hundred inch telescope that is being constructed. Are the scientists
about ready to put that into operation? It seems to me that I have been hearing about it for some time.

Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, that two hundred inch telescope will certainly be a wonderful example of modern, mechanical genius when it is completed. No doubt our listeners have already heard of this great two hundred inch mirror which was fashioned in Corning, New York, and sent to the optical shop of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena for grinding. When it was first completed in the Corning Glass Works, that great mirror weighed approximately 18 tons. It was no small undertaking to get that out to the West Coast. Measurements had to be taken of tunnels and subways to see if it would go through them on its trip. Now, in the process of the grinding down of that lens, approximately four tons of glass must be taken off. It is a very slow and exacting piece of work, for that lens must be ground so accurately that it will not be even one-millionth of an inch off over the entire surface. That is approaching perfection!

Dr. Talbot: Are they still grinding away at it? How long will it be before they finish it?

Dr. Sutherland: I understand that at the outbreak of the war, although it was not finished, they took that glass and very carefully placed it underground in some hidden spot here in Southern California where it would be absolutely safe from bombings. Naturally, all work on it has had to be held in abeyance until war conditions will permit the resumption of the building of the telescope frame and the completion of the lens itself. Perhaps two or three years after the war ends and our newspapers are once more publishing the activities of a fairly peaceful world, we shall hear of the erection of this telescope. Then as it pushes this universe of ours out twice five hundred million light years of distance, God will seem even bigger to our minds than we had conceived Him to be.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, you have certainly given us a new idea of the immensity of space and the size of the celestial bodies found therein. I recall that you said you believed distance would be eliminated when we have our resurrection bodies. Can you enlarge on that thought?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, Dr. Talbot; there are some more very interesting things to say in that regard. I mentioned the fact that, if our eyes were properly focused, we should be able to look into the night sky and see a brilliance beyond all of our present comprehension. Several years ago I saw in a newspaper an item of interest from the University of Prague. That article read in part, "For the first time in history, the light from stellar bodies was heard in a radio broadcast here. Moonbeams and rays from Vega, the brightest star to be seen in the northern hemisphere, were translated into sound by one of the professors of the University of Prague." The account continued: "Moreover, listeners discovered that voices of the individual orbs millions of miles apart have individuality. They harmonized, however, into a long-drawn-out sound. The sound was recorded on a disc from which it was broadcast to the countries of Europe."

Dr. Talbot: But, Dr. Sutherland, how in the world can the scientists transform light into sound so that even the light of the stars may be heard?

Dr. Sutherland: This change is accomplished by means of the photoelectric cell. The physics of it need not be discussed here; but suffice it to say that, if our ears were properly tuned, we should be able to receive these sounds. While there is no scriptural authority for it as far as I know, I verily believe that we shall have our ears properly
tuned in the eternity that lies ahead so that we shall be able to hear the glories of God’s creation, as well as view them with our eyes. Furthermore, I believe that the great organ background, as it were, for the Hallelujah Chorus, which will be sung by the saints in glory, as recorded in the fifth chapter of Revelation, will be presented by this creation which we see all about us. It is often referred to as the “music of the spheres.” And why not? In this connection, let us take I Cor. 2:9 out of its context for just a moment; for it presents a truth that is most challenging and arresting,

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, you make me long for some of those experiences that will be ours when “we shall be like him” who “loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” What a glorious heritage we have through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Dr. Sutherland: I wonder how many people have any conception of the number of stars that are in existence out there in space. As we have said before, this little “island universe” of ours is made up of approximately forty thousand million suns, and there are untold millions of galactic systems up there which are equal in size to ours. Just try to make a mental picture of the number of suns which make up the total of our universe.

Again, I often wonder how many people have ever paused to consider whence they came. One may go back in his thinking as far as his imagination will allow, and yet he must conclude that at one time he did not exist. Every effect must have its cause. Now these systems are in the heavens. Someone must have put them there, for it is a well known fact that “something” cannot come from “nothing.” Genesis 1:1 takes on an added significance when we contemplate this fact, for we find there the complete account of the origin of all things:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

Dr. Talbot: Yes; that is the best explanation I know for many facts that completely baffle scientists. God says that He created all of these things “in the beginning.” Scientists have no logical explanation whatever for the origin of things when they refuse to accept what God tells us is a fact. We are discovering in these studies that the Lord knew what He was talking about when He said to Abraham,

“Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them” (Gen. 15:5).

Dr. Sutherland: The Lord knew what He was talking about when He said that to Abraham. He knew also what He was talking about when He directed Jeremiah to write,

“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the seed of David, my servant” (Jer. 33:22).

You know, Dr. Talbot, the scientists today are just catching up with the truth of the Word of God. God told Abraham that the stars of heaven could not be numbered, and yet the scientists of subsequent generations presumed to count the stars. A great Egyptian astronomer, Hipparchus, prepared a supposedly complete list of the stars of the heavens which, he said, numbered one thousand and twenty-five stars. A little later, another Egyptian scholar, Ptolemy, counted the stars of heaven and discovered four more stars than his predecessor had observed.
These men lived in the days of the writing of the Old Testament. Suppose these Bible writers had adjusted their notes to the science of astronomy during those days. They would be out of date now. It is rather amusing now to look back and see how naive the scientists were in those days. Of course, they have been proved to be wrong, and the Bible stands absolutely true. It states that the stars of heaven cannot be numbered, in spite of what the scientists of any given generation have said.

**Dr. Talbot:** Yes, Dr. Sutherland; that is a striking illustration of the contrast between the scientific notions that last for a day and the eternal truths of God’s Word. Have you anything further to say on this particular subject?

**Dr. Sutherland:** Yes, the astronomers who lived during the days of the writing of the Bible believed that the earth was the center of the universe. They believed further that this earth was a great cube which rested on the backs of four elephants, who in turn were standing on the back of a giant tortoise. Incidentally, it did not seem to occur to them to wonder what the tortoise was resting on. They were satisfied to let it go at that. They figured that, whenever an earthquake occurred, one of the elephants was scratching a flea or something, and shook this great cube. But by inspiration Job states,

“He hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7).

We might well ask the sceptics, “Who was right? The scientists of the day or the Word of God?” Of course, the answer is obvious; and astronomers have revealed to us the fact that the Bible is up to date in every detail, not only as it speaks concerning the great subject of God’s universe, but also on every subject it touches.

**Dr. Talbot:** That is vital information for young people today to take with them as they enter the class-rooms of colleges and universities where the Bible is ridiculed and disbelieved. Young men and women would do well to remember that the Bible is the final source of truth, and much more reliable than the mere imaginings or theories of men.

**Dr. Sutherland:** You are absolutely right. There are a number of references in the Word of God which speak of the earth as a great “sphere” and not a cube, whereas the scientists who lived during the days of the writing of the Bible, without exception, considered the earth as flat. We do realize that the Bible mentions the “four corners of the earth,” but that is perfectly understandable in view of the fact that we use that phrase today in our popular language, in a figurative sense, even though we know the earth has no “four corners.” It must be understood to refer to the directions on the earth, rather than to any physiological condition which exists on the earth. There are four directions: east, west, north, and south, which lend themselves most conveniently to the popular phraseology, “the four corners of the earth.” The fact is that thousands of years ago the Bible spoke of the earth as a “sphere” and not a cube; for we read,

“He sitteth upon the circle of the earth” (Isaiah 40:22).

This reminds me of a fundamental truth that I would urge all young people to remember as they go back to their schools within the next few weeks. There is no conflict; indeed, there can be no conflict between the facts of science and the facts of the Word of God. There may be a conflict between the notions, theories, or speculations of scientists and the facts of the Word of God. Furthermore, there may be conflicts between the facts of science and some of the weird interpretations of the Word of God. But when men of science get beyond the realm of well
established fact, they need not be taken seriously in the least. If they contradict the Word of God, without doubt, it can be proved that they are wrong; for "the word of God endureth forever." This is a wonderful truth, and should be fundamental to all our thinking.

*Dr. Talbot:* No wonder the psalmist exclaims: "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite . . . He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names" (Psalm 147: 4, 5).

What a wonderful God we have! He can call each of the multiplied billions of stars by its own name! We see them merely as a vast number, but God sees and knows each one individually.

My friend, the God who names the stars is the same One who longs to call you by your name as a child of His. He loves to be able to have you look up with the eye of faith and see Him and call Him "Father." The concept of the very word "God" is wonderful; but I believe that He prefers much more to be called by that even more wonderful name, "Father." "God" speaks to us of power, infinite power; but "Father" speaks of love in all of its beauty and perfection. You may call Him "Father" by a simple acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour. Just imagine what it means to be able to call the God of the universe "Father." That is a privilege every man should covet, and it is a privilege every man may have if he will accept God's way of salvation.

*Dr. Sutherland:* Yes, Dr. Talbot; I have. As we consider the marvels of God's creation, we must keep very humble, reverently asking almighty God to reveal His Word, His facts, and His will to us as we study. The arrogance of mortal man at times makes us ashamed of the human race. We became so proud of the little smattering of knowledge which we have acquired that it is well-nigh impossible for anyone to tell us anything. When we are inclined to become puffed up and inflated with ideas concerning our own importance, it is well for us to sit down and consider seriously all that there is yet to be known. If we do that at frequent intervals, there will be no danger of our being possessed with a sense of our own importance; for regardless of how much we may know, it is as nothing compared with the vast field of knowledge which may still be learned. The more we know, the more we realize how much there is yet to learn. This keeps us very humble before God.

*Dr. Talbot:* That is good advice for all of us. A display of egotism is most unbecoming in a child of God. Instead, we ought to maintain continually the attitude of a student who is constantly searching to learn more and more of the wonders of God's creation and the marvels of His grace. My young friend, if you are in a college or a university, be sure to put first things first. Keep God in His proper relationship and creation in its proper relationship; then you will have no difficulty with the so-called problems of scientific agnosticism and unbelief.

*Dr. Sutherland:* I like to read the thirty-eighth chapter of Job to people who are too much impressed with their own importance. There the Lord said to Job:

"Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man;
for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? . . . Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place . . . ? Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? Or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? . . . Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof? . . . Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? . . . Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? . . . Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? . . . Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go?"

Dr. Talbot: These questions should make us all realize anew that, comparatively speaking, we know absolutely nothing.

Dr. Sutherland: That is right, Dr. Talbot. We ought to realize anew, that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Although we cannot answer the questions that God asks Job, although we cannot answer thousands of questions that might be asked; yet we do know the One who understands all these things. Our minds and hearts can find perfect rest and peace in Him, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that we through faith in Him might have everlasting life.

Dr. Talbot: As we have been thinking together on these important subjects, Dr. Sutherland, I have been impressed anew with the brevity of human life as contrasted with the permanency of the stars above. Indeed, we are constantly reminded of this fact as we study the Word of God. In Psalm 103:15, 16 we read,

“As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.”

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, Dr. Talbot; our span of life is as an instant when compared with eternity. It seems strange that many are so concerned about this instant of time that they take no thought of the eternity which lies ahead. Here we are, creatures of the dust, bound by the laws of time and space, living but a short time; and then we must pass on into the beyond. How wonderful it is that God has revealed to us the glorious condition which awaits those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a very solemnizing thought, however, in the fact that God has also revealed the horrible condition of those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour. I am glad the way has been made clear and open so that everyone may realize this glorious privilege if he so desires and be able to look forward to the wonderful heritage that awaits all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, in view of the fact that God created the stars and the universe, it seems reasonable to the right-thinking individual that He could stop and start these things at will, does it not?

Dr. Sutherland: I presume you are thinking of Joshua’s long day, as it is known and recorded in the Word of God. That miracle and indeed all of the miracles of the Bible do not bother anyone in the least who has a proper concept of God and a proper concept of creation. Those who deny the possibility of such a miracle fall into one of two classes
of individuals. Either they bring God down to the level of man and say, in effect, "Man cannot make the earth or the sun stand still; therefore God cannot do it." Or they go to the other extreme and try to elevate man to the level of God. The net result is the same: regardless of how great they conceive man to be, they come to the inevitable conclusion that man cannot cause the earth or the sun to stand still; and, in view of that scientific impossibility, they say also that it is impossible for God to perform such a miracle. These destructive critics look upon the account of Joshua's long day as a simple figment of Jewish imagination. They say it did not actually take place; but that the men of the Jewish army fought with such valor and determination that they accomplished in a day what would ordinarily require two or three days for an army to accomplish, and that it seemed to them that the sun stood still. Of course, this denies the infallibility of the Bible; and, if the Word of God is wrong on this point, who knows but what it is wrong on many other points? Accordingly, the whole system of Christian thinking falls down completely, because our theology is based entirely upon the authority of the Bible.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, is it possible to account for the long day of Joshua upon natural grounds? Is there any reasonable explanation for this great phenomenon that occurred in Joshua's day?

Dr. Sutherland: Of course, you know that we do not need to account for Joshua's day on a natural ground. We have a God of the supernatural. He does not violate natural laws, but sometimes He supercedes natural laws in His actions. Because He is almighty in His power and infinite in His wisdom, He can do what we could never accomplish. When we move beyond the natural realm into the realm of what we call miracles, we are simply moving into a higher order of creation than that with which we are familiar. For instance, a rock or a stone represents one order of creation. But it cannot grow; nor can it move of its own volition. It is bound by certain natural laws which pertain to the realm in which it has been created. On the other hand, trees and other units of the vegetable kingdom can grow, even though they can not move. They belong to a higher order of creation. Nevertheless, the tree is bound by the particular laws which pertain to its order of being. The animal kingdom belongs to a still higher order of creation. Animals are free to move about. They grow and move of their own volition. Therefore, they are not bound by the laws of the lower orders of creation; they move in the realm of their own creation level. Man is of a still higher order of creation. He not only has the ability to grow and move about; but he also has the ability to contemplate the existence of God, and he can let his mind dwell upon the marvels of God's creation. In other words, a human being is a thinking individual, and that sets him apart from the lower animal kingdom. Man is the highest order of physical creation; but, when we move beyond the physical realm, no doubt there are spiritual creations of a yet higher order than we. I do not mean "higher" in the sense that they are more important in the sight of God, but merely that they are moving in a realm about which we know nothing. Ultimately, we move beyond the realm of creation and get to the Creator Himself, even Jesus Christ. It stands to reason, therefore, that He can do those things which are utterly impossible for us to do, even as we can accomplish things which are utterly impossible for members of the lower forms of creation to accomplish.

Dr. Talbot: But how does that fit into the discussion of the stars and particularly the long day of Joshua?
Dr. Sutherland: I was just trying to illustrate the reasonableness of believing the fact of Joshua's long day, as well as all the miracles recorded in the Bible. We realize that God who created all these things can do that which is pleasing in His sight, that which would be utterly impossible for us to accomplish. The fact that we cannot perform those miracles recorded in the Bible does not mean for a moment that God can not do them. Nor does it mean that He would have to violate the known laws of nature or science in order to accomplish them. Instead, He simply brings into action other laws with which we are totally unfamiliar and applies those laws to bring about the desired end.

Dr. Talbot: That helps me to understand a little better the facts recorded in the Bible. I never doubted the Word of God, but I am always glad to be able to understand more fully the significance of the statements found in it. Young people who may be listening in today are especially urged to keep this great truth in mind; namely, that the God who fashioned the vast universe by His infinite power surely knows the laws that govern this universe and can apply those laws as He sees fit, either to the universe as a whole or to any part of it. Moreover, He can arrange everything so that there will be no disaster resulting from any of His actions.

Dr. Sutherland: Let me illustrate it in another way, Dr. Talbot. One day, some years ago, I had the privilege of riding in a locomotive as it pulled a long string of cars behind it. I saw the engineer with his hand on the throttle. He could manipulate that throttle at will, applying more steam and making the train move more rapidly, or cutting off the steam supply and thus allowing the train to slow down. He could put on the brakes and bring the train to a complete stop. He knew how to handle the instruments of that locomotive. As we were travelling along on that trip, there was a fly buzzing around in the cab of that engine; and I thought to myself: Suppose that fly could think through some of the problems of this locomotive. Suppose it could look at the speedometer and discover that we are travelling at the rate of forty-five miles an hour. Suppose it could light upon the throttle of that engine and walk all around it. After a thorough investigation, it would come to the conclusion that we are travelling forty-five miles an hour. Suppose that fly tried to stop the train. It could not move the throttle; it could not put on the brakes; it could not do anything that would impede the forward progress of that engine. Then suppose it could proceed to write a book in “fly language” and have it published. Suppose it should broadcast over the air, saying to all the flies in all the world, “Ladies and gentlemen, I cannot stop that engine; therefore, it cannot be stopped.” Such an attitude on the part of a fly would be very presumptuous, to say the least, would it not?

Dr. Talbot: Yes, for all the while the fly would be ignoring the fact that the engineer could stop the train whenever he wished.

Dr. Sutherland: And yet men are proving themselves to be just as foolish when they discredit the long day of Joshua. They say in effect, “Ladies and gentlemen, because we cannot stop the sun or the earth, it cannot be stopped. The long day of Joshua must be considered a bit of Jewish folk lore that is not to be taken seriously.”

If a man recognizes God as He actually is, there need be no trouble whatever in connection with the miracles of the Bible. Even the miracle of Jonah and the great fish, which skeptics so loudly ridicule, is completely reasonable because we read,
"And the Lord prepared a great fish . . ."

It was not a natural phenomenon—the LORD did the work; and when one conceives the Lord to be what He actually is, the problem of the miracle is completely eliminated. Faith enters in and believes the supernatural power of the God of miracles.

Dr. Talbot: I surely hope that our young people are able to grasp the significance of these great truths. Then they will be able to go back to their schools with a new assurance and confidence in the Word of God. They will not be bothered with the idle boastings of puny men who discredit the miracles of the Bible which God wrought simply because they themselves cannot perform the same things. Although the skeptic recognizes his own limitations, yet he makes himself very foolish in his effort to try to limit God's power to his own level of ability. Our God is the God of the universe; He is a miracle-working God; and therefore, we can put our absolute confidence in Him, knowing that He "doeth all things well."

Dr. Sutherland: You are absolutely right, Dr. Talbot. It bothers me to hear men try to explain on natural grounds the phenomenon of Joshua's long day. I heard a very renowned scholar suggest that the long day occurred because of an eclipse with which the ancients were not familiar, so they concluded that the day was most unusual. As a matter of fact, this feeble attempt at an explanation raised more questions than it answered. Indeed, it did not explain anything. There is no explanation on natural grounds for these miracles. There is no explanation for the original miracle of creation. It goes beyond that which we can comprehend; therefore, we simply recognize the fact that God intervened. All that was necessary for God to do to bring about Joshua's long day was to stop the rotation of the earth on its axis and stop the rotation of the moon in its orbit. I submit to you that the God who flung the suns into being in the first place, who set them in their orbits, could very easily handle that particular problem with this tiny speck which we call the earth.

Dr. Talbot: It is wonderful to be able to rest in the absolute confidence that God knows what He is doing and that He can handle the affairs of our lives in a manner that will exceed even our fondest expectations. I am impressed anew with the truth that has been made so real to us during the past weeks; namely, the all-sufficiency of the great God and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. To know Him aright is to know, not only the source of all truth, but very truth itself. Not to know Him means that, regardless of whatever else we may learn, our human wisdom is futile and vain imagining. How true it is that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"! In this day of skepticism and unbelief the person who would be wise is the one who believes the Word of God, who accepts the Christ of the Word as his own Saviour and the Lord and King of his life. That one becomes mentally and spiritually rich beyond compare.

Dr. Sutherland: Dr. Talbot, the stars present to us such a wonderful spectacle and such a tremendous subject for study that we can never in this life hope to discover more than a minute proportion of knowledge pertaining to them. They speak of an almighty God who by the Word of His power and by the power of His Word fashioned the suns and the galaxies and put them in their proper places. If anyone looks at the stars and fails to see God's handiwork in them, he fails to get the lessons that are there for him to receive.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, that leads us to another very important subject, one which has to do with astrology.
Tell us what astronomers think of this subject that is so popular in many places today.

Dr. Sutherland: That presents a very important phase of the study of astronomy. Many thousands of people are misguided in their thinking to such an extent that they believe the stars actually have an effect upon their lives. In regard to this subject, however, both the Word of God and men of science stand together in condemnation. A very forceful article appeared in the May, 1938, issue of "The Reader's Digest," entitled, "That Gigantic Fraud—Astrology." I want to read a paragraph of this article as quoted in the "Griffith Observer" of April, 1943:

"During the last three hundred years, not one recognized scientist anywhere in the world has professed belief in the slightest connection between the stars and man's destiny. The only feeling that scientists have about astrology is one of disgust that, in a nation of free schools, such hokus-pokus should have so many believers."

Dr. Talbot: It is certainly quite evident that the men of the astronomical profession do not link the study of the stars with human destiny. It is surprising that there are so many people who have so much confidence in these stars which are multiplied thousands of light years away. Confidence in the stars is completely misplaced confidence, is it not?

Dr. Sutherland: Yes, it surely is. Not only do the astronomers condemn the whole subject of astrology, but the legal profession, likewise, condemns it. In "American Jurisprudence" (Vol. 23, page 711) we read:

"The offense of fortune telling is generally held to be a misdemeanor. Under many statutes, fortune tellers are declared to be vagrants and disorderly persons; and it has been said that such persons are without any property rights in a name or appellation which a court of equity will protect."

In addition to the attitude of the legal profession, we have the attitude of the men who frame our laws. The New York legislature "has signified its disbelief in human power to prophesy human events" (253 N.Y.S. 836). In one case, the statement was made by the court,

"Fortune tellers have always been classed with rogues, mountebanks, and generally disreputable members of society, to be summarily dealt with for the good of the community."

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, what kind of claims do these astrologers make?

Dr. Sutherland: The claims made by the astrologers are most varied. In fact, for a stated fee, they will make almost any claim desired. They put themselves up as super men with super intellects, or super women with super intellects, as the case may be. Among other things, they claim to be able to chart the whole course of a human life by the position of the celestial bodies at the time of a person's birth. They also claim to be able to tell the best times for plantings, for investments, for marriage, and for bearing children. They claim that physical ailments can be foretold by means of a horoscope and without medical examination. They also claim that wars and national or local disasters can be predicted.

Dr. Talbot: What is the origin of astrology?

Dr. Sutherland: Astrology, as the records indicate, goes back to the time of the development of astronomy; that is, the study of celestial bodies. It appeared first in Babylonia some time after six hundred B.C., and followed in the wake of the studies which Babylonian astronomers had
developed in connection with the calendar, moon eclipses, and other interesting data. The astrology of the present time is based in large measure upon the notions of Ptolemy who lived in the second century. If a person will but stop to consider some of the "circular reasoning" in which the astrologer indulges, he will see its falacies immediately. For instance, the early astrologers identified the planets with their pagan gods. The planets were named after the various gods of mythology, and the attributes of these various gods were ascribed to the planets who bore their names. The mythology of that age has long since been forgotten. It is just an ancient bit of folklore, and yet astrologers today would have us believe that great globes of rock millions of miles away exercise their influence upon us because they are identified with pagan gods who existed only in the realm of mythology.

Dr. Talbot: That would certainly seem to be conclusive evidence that there is no sound basis whatever for believing in this thing called astrology. What other information have you that would guide right thinking individuals to a proper concept of the evils of astrology?

Dr. Sutherland: There are a number of things to be said regarding the evils of astrology. We are told that human lives are affected by means of "cosmic vibrations." Incidentally, such cosmic vibrations are utterly unknown to astro-physicists and astronomers. It is absurd to suppose that cosmic vibrations are radiated from the planets, thus affecting a person's life down here upon the earth. The amount of radiation that is sent out from the planets, and which the earth receives, is infinitesimally small. For instance, some time ago I said that we receive one two-billionth part of the total amount of the sun's light and heat. If an object so many times greater than our earth gets only one two-billionth of its radiation to the earth, try to imagine how much radiation a star equal in size to the earth, or smaller, would actually get to the earth and be able to affect human destiny.

Dr. Talbot: It seems as though there could not be many cosmic vibrations from Mars, or Venus, or Mercury that would affect us. The whole idea seems out of the realm of common sense, but I have noticed in newspapers from time to time astrological predictions pertaining to individuals who were born on the date of the publication of the paper. What are the scientist's views concerning these predictions?

Dr. Sutherland: The code of astrologers which is most commonly used and which is adhered to by the outstanding astrological devotees states: "A precise astrological opinion cannot honestly be rendered with reference to the life of an individual unless it is based upon a horoscope for the year, month, day, and time of day, in addition to the correct geographical location of the place of birth of the individual." Manifestly, then, these newspaper horoscopes cannot be relied upon in the least. Such predictions are usually general enough to apply to anyone. For instance, one such prediction states, "This is a good day to establish more harmonious relations with relatives." And again, "Let past experience guide you in planning future business changes."

Dr. Talbot: It seems to me that any day is a good day to establish more harmonious relations with relatives, and it seems to me that past experience ought always to guide us in planning all our future changes. Therefore, this advice is good advice any day, not merely upon certain days in which certain individuals may be born. There seems to be no sound reason why we should give the stars credit for conveying this sort of common sense.
Dr. Sutherland: You are right. Many horoscopes are based only on the time of an individual's birth between two dates, one month apart. In such horoscopes, only the position of the sun is taken into consideration. These imaginary lines are purely arbitrary and were placed there by the ancients to represent the limits of the twelve signs of the zodiac. For instance, a person who is born between March 19 and April 20 is supposed to be greatly influenced in a certain way by the sun. Then a person who is born on April 21 is supposed to be greatly affected by the sun in an entirely different manner. Granted for the moment that the sun does have an influence on individuals, there is no reason in the least why it should change its influence when it crosses an imaginary line in the sky, which was placed there by the ancients who knew absolutely nothing of scientific astronomical data. There is no more logical reason for supposing that such a change takes place than there is for supposing that a profound change takes place when we cross an imaginary line from one county in our state into an adjoining county.

Dr. Talbot: Why do people become interested in astrology anyway? I have my own reasons, but what do you think?

Dr. Sutherland: I believe the article which appeared in the November, 1940, issue of "Good Housekeeping" states the case fairly well. Among other very interesting items, we read there:

"Why does astrology make an impression at all? Because people, even intelligent people, occasionally are gullible. Very often it is fun, enjoyable. People like to hear about nothing so much as about themselves; and when you consult an astrologer, he talks about nothing but you."

May I give another quotation from the "Griffith Observer" of recent date?

"Some people believe in astrology because they suffer from a neurotic condition much more serious than just ignorance. It is a case of delusions of grandeur: a person's conviction that he is so important that even the stars take part in determining his fate. It is easier for a person to inquire about his future from an astrologer than it is to get busy and do something constructive about it himself."

Dr. Talbot, there is not the slightest shred of evidence that there is anything but delusion to the whole subject of astrology. We come back again to that with which we started. Astronomy points us to God. We see the universe about us as a creation. How wonderful it is to know that the God who created all of this universe is the One who loves to hear us call Him, "Our Father." This may be done through a simple acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as one's personal Lord and Saviour.

Dr. Talbot: Dr. Sutherland, these facts have been most illuminating; and I am sure many will be helped by what you have said in connection with this religious fraud called astrology.

My friends, let me urge you again to look into the heavens and see there the glory of God, and realize anew what a wonderful Saviour our Lord Jesus Christ is. He who fashioned the universe is coming again to receive His own unto Himself, that where He is there they may be also. Those who are found in Him are going to be with Him. Those who are not found in Him will be cast into outer darkness, where there shall be "weeping and gnashing of teeth." God's Word predicts a glorious future for His own, but a dismal, gloomy future for those who reject Him. It is up to you to decide this day whom you will serve. I pray that it will be the Lord Himself. He loves you and gave Himself for you.
Dr. Sutherland: There is another very interesting phase of the study of Bible astronomy. It has to do with the star of Bethlehem. There have been a number of explanations concerning the nature of that star and how it guided the wise men to the birthplace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Talbot: I remember reading in the papers a few years ago a statement from a great astronomer who is connected with the University of Chicago. He said in effect that the star of Bethlehem "is a theme for a beautiful legend," and that astronomy agreed that the star never existed. What should be said in reply to a false statement such as this?

Dr. Sutherland: That question brings us back to the subject that we have discussed just recently in these broadcasts: Does God ever intervene in the affairs of men, revealing His power and His will to men by direct means? Or is the God of all creation subject to the very laws which He Himself created? It certainly is completely inaccurate to say that "astronomy agrees that the star never existed"; for in this particular instance the star to which reference is made is entirely and completely apart from the subject of astronomy. The simple account given in the Word of God reveals that the star was a direct intervention of God in the affairs of the wise men, in order that they might be led to a particular spot for a particular occasion.

Dr. Talbot: Do you believe then, Dr. Sutherland, that the star which the wise men saw was not in reality a celestial object, but that, instead, it was a manifestation of the glory of God which was seen only by the wise men?

Dr. Sutherland: That is exactly what I mean, Dr. Talbot. The star cannot be accounted for on any natural ground. Away back in the very earliest period of the Jewish nation, a prophecy was given which is recorded in Numbers 24:17,

“There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel."

We believe that the "Star out of Jacob" was symbolized by this strange phenomenon that occurred at the time of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Talbot: But what are some of the explanations that have been advanced regarding this star of Bethlehem?

Dr. Sutherland: A number of explanations have been offered, none of which explains the situation in the least. Probably one of the most common ones is that the "star" was a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn, and possibly Mars. In December, 1603, the renowned astronomer and scientist, Kepler, recorded such a conjunction of these stars. Manifestly it produced a light in the night sky that surpassed in brilliance anything known hitherto. He noted that the three stars were joined together in March of that year and continued in their orbits in approximately the same relationship until October of that year. In fact, Kepler was so interested in this phenomenon that he calculated the paths of these planets and arrived at the conclusion that in the year 6 B.C. the conjunction had occurred also. Subsequent data revealed the fact that this conjunction actually occurred in 7 B.C., but this in no way accounts for the star of Bethlehem which the wise men saw in the east.

Dr. Talbot: Is that theory accepted by men who believe the Bible to be the Word of God?

Dr. Sutherland: Not many men who believe in the Bible as the Word of God accept this as an explanation for the star of Bethlehem. However, there are good men who believe the Bible to be the Word of God who are interested
in discovering whether this was a natural phenomenon or entirely a supernatural phenomenon. It does not mean necessarily that they are trying to discredit the Bible. They are endeavoring simply to discover the full significance of Bible truths. However, the problem is not answered by this explanation.

Another explanation has been advanced; namely, that the star of Bethlehem was a great nova which appeared suddenly in the night sky, shone for a few nights, and then disappeared as suddenly.

Dr. Talbot: That brings up an entirely new subject. What is a nova?

Dr. Sutherland: A nova is one of the strangest of the phenomena that occur in the night sky. Apparently, it is the explosion of a mighty sun. Two such sights have been observed during this century. On Feb. 21, 1901, a brilliant star was observed in the night sky in the constellation of Perseus. It so happened that a photograph had been taken of that particular spot in the night sky on Feb. 20, and that star was not seen at all; whereas, on the very next night, there was observed in that spot a star of the second magnitude, which means that it was one of the most brilliant stars in the sky. On the evening of Feb. 23, 1901, it rivalled the brightest star of the sky; but by the end of the month it had dropped back to its former magnitude; and by the end of a few months it was no longer visible to the naked eye.

Again on June 8, 1918, another star was observed as it appeared suddenly in the night sky. On the night of June 9, it was equal to the second brightest star in the heavens; but, just like novas, in the course of a few months it became invisible again. These novas occur from time to time, either as an explosion of a sun or from a collision or near approach of two suns, both of which may be invisible to the naked eye. The ensuing conflagration, however, causes them to flash a brilliance that is most interesting to behold. Incidentally, if our sun ever became a nova, that instant we should be eliminated from this “vale of tears.”

Dr. Talbot: The subject of the nova is interesting, but does it explain the star of Bethlehem?

Dr. Sutherland: I do not believe that it does explain the star of Bethlehem. There are some who think that it is an explanation because a nova could remain brilliant for the length of time it took the wise men to follow its path to the birthplace of our Lord. I believe, however, that the simplest and most reasonable explanation is that God revealed Himself to the wise men of the East in that particular form so that they recognized it as a star. It was purely a local condition which existed and which probably only the wise men saw. At least, if others saw it, they did not recognize its significance. By that means the wise men were directed to the birthplace of the King. In some way they must have known that the Messianic promises had been given, that out of the Jewish nation would come the King of kings and Lord of lords. They naturally assumed that the event would occur in Jerusalem, the center of the Jewish world; and leaving the guidance of the star, they followed their own inclination. Then after they were disappointed at Jerusalem, “the star . . . went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was” (Matt. 2:9).

God led the children of Israel in Old Testament days by means of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. That was the manifestation of His glory in the presence of His people. At this particular time when Jesus Christ was born, God chose to reveal His glory and to guide those of His own choosing by means of a star in-
stead of by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. That is the only difference. It was a supernatural phenomenon that took place, and by it God brought about the desired results. When those results had been obtained, the star disappeared, and the wise men returned to their own country after they had visited the place where the Lord was. They glorified God; they worshipped Jesus Christ, and went on their way rejoicing.

Dr. Talbot: That seems to be a most reasonable explanation. And what a wonderful lesson for us in the visit of the wise men and the guiding hand of almighty God! Surely God has led us to the place where we, too, may worship Jesus Christ, find peace to our souls, and go on our way rejoicing.

If any of you who are listeners to these broadcasts have not as yet found that “peace which passeth all understanding,” let me urge you to follow the pathway that leads to the Lord Jesus Christ. Worship Him as your Lord and Saviour, and you will find that peace which the world cannot give, and which the world cannot take away. You will love Him for His grace. You will extol and honor and worship Him as the Creator of this vast universe. And you will be encouraged and strengthened by the knowledge that His glory and power are limitless. A thousand times you will reiterate the eternal truth,

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”

Then, in heaven with Him throughout all the ages to come, you will “behold and share” His glory because He has willed it so.

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (II Cor. 9:15).