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O Lord our Lord, how
excellent is thy name
in all the earth!

—Psalms 8:1



Christian Science Sentinel
Bible Lens

**God the Only
Cause and
Creator**

**June 3–9,
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God the Only Cause and Creator

from the Responsive Reading

Psalms 33:5

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Bible texts often convey messages by format as well as wording. The 22 verses in this psalm match the number of letters in the Hebrew language—an intentional expression of completeness.

Psalms 89:8

O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?

“Lord of hosts” is the most frequently used divine title in the Hebrew Bible, appearing nearly three hundred times. *Hosts* (Hebrew, *šabaʿ*) usually means armies, either in heaven or on earth. David makes this connection when he tells Goliath, “I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel” (I Samuel 17:45).

from Section 2

5 | Deuteronomy 4:39

The Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Deuteronomy is the last book in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). Its title comes from the Greek word *deuteronomion*, or second law. The first law-giving—Moses’ delivery of the Covenant Code, including the Ten Commandments—is recorded in Exodus, chapters 20–23.

The writers of Deuteronomy were experts in the art of persuasion. They used their skills to remind the people of their covenant with God and to urge them to honor His laws. Here, they chose part of a speech by Moses to introduce a review of the Commandments (see 5:2–21).

6 | Job 38:1, 4

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ... Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

For most of Job’s story, he grapples with doubts about God’s nature and intent toward His creation. In this chapter, God responds to Job. His answers aren’t final statements, but four chapters of questions describing His supreme power and wisdom (see chaps. 38–41).

One commentary explains, “God’s numerous questions to Job are designed to challenge Job’s understanding and to increase knowledge, not shut it down.” Another says, “God does not humiliate or condemn him.” God’s responses, it continues, “succeed in bringing Job to complete faith in God’s wisdom and goodness.”

Job is humbled, and answers, “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee” (42:2, citation 8). His willingness to worship God without reservation is rewarded with the restoration of abundance and peace in his life (see 42:10–17).

An exploration of Bible citations from the *Christian Science Quarterly*® Bible Lessons

“... a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.” —Mary Baker Eddy

from Section 3

10 | Isaiah 55:11

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

• • •

It is the same with my word.

I send it out, and it always produces fruit.

It will accomplish all I want it to,

and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

—New Living Translation

11 | Isaiah 40:8

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

In contrast to the transitory nature of human existence, God’s Word is unchanging, reliable, eternal. A scholar asserts, “It is not the creature of a season like grass ... it expresses God’s plan and purpose, but it also has the power of carrying his plan into effect and achieving his purpose.”

First Peter echoes this prophecy: “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever” (1:24, 25). Similarly, Christ Jesus promises, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

from Section 4

14 | John 9:1, 2

As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked

him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

The disciples’ question about the cause of the man’s blindness shows their belief in the theological doctrine of retribution—the teaching that God punishes sinners. This popular idea held that misfortune or illness was God’s punishment for sin. Jesus refutes this concept in verse 3, addressing the disciples’ spiritual blindness before he heals the man’s physical blindness.

from Section 6

19 | Isaiah 43:10

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen.

God has just called “all the nations” to bring their witnesses, but no response is recorded (see v. 9). Now He declares His own witness to be not a great military power or economic force but His servant Israel.

“God’s people know the power of his grace, the sweetness of his comforts, the kind care of his providence, and the truth of his promise,” writes a researcher. Like those taking the stand in a trial, Israel is to testify to the character and might of the one God.

Resources quoted in this issue

Cit. 6: Green, Joel B., et al., eds. *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Common English Bible, 2013; Barker, Kenneth, et al., eds; *The NIV Study Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.

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Finding the spiritual cause

By Louis Abrahams

From the December 4, 1978, issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

When a trouble clings persistently, we may wonder why it hasn't been resolved. Perhaps we keep probing for causes, knowing that when the source of the trouble is removed its effects will disappear.

But Christian Science turns us away from human probing and reveals the one and only cause to be God, who causes only perfection. Mary Baker Eddy writes: "There is but one primal cause. Therefore there can be no effect from any other cause, and there can be no reality in aught which does not proceed from this great and only cause" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 207).

In theory this sounds wonderful—a perfect conclusion for everything! Yet what of destructive material causes and their persistent effects, which hold many in bondage? Do we brush these aside, comforting ourselves that they have no true existence anyway? Not if our aim is to heal mankind's troubles as well as our own.

Then, how do we find the one spiritual cause and make it practical? Through receptivity to the Christ, God's spiritual message, which lights our thought with what is spiritually true. God and His reflection, infinite Mind and its spiritual idea, are All-in-all, the one universal cause and effect. Matter has no real cause—indeed, no real existence—and therefore has no authority, power, activity, effect.

Mrs. Eddy explains: "Jesus of Nazareth was the most scientific man that ever trod the globe. He plunged beneath the material surface of things, and found the spiritual cause" (*Science and Health*, p. 313). The Scriptures do not record Jesus as considering the origin of sinful and diseased conditions. He found and demonstrated the one

spiritual cause, divine Principle, proving it to be infinitely available to meet humanity's needs.

When climbing in outback country some time ago, I slipped from a rock face and fell heavily to a level below. It was useless to call for assistance from others, because they were some distance away. I had to crawl to safety even though the shock of the fall and the pain made it difficult.

I recalled that in his healing works Jesus rejected all testimony of the material senses. I did this, but the discomfort persisted, and it seemed impossible to move. A greater acceptance of spiritual truth was vital.

Through prayer I realized that even though the material circumstances had been denied and rejected, the difficulty had been left right at that point, in no man's land. I needed an absolute conviction of the one spiritual cause that was governing all reality in perfect harmony. I understandingly affirmed that divine Principle constitutes man's only existence. By the time the rest of the party arrived, every trace of discomfort had disappeared, and there have been no ill effects.

When questioned by his disciples about the cause of a case of lifelong blindness, Jesus replied, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:3). In reality there has never been an action apart from the infinite spiritual cause from which all being emanates as perfect, here and now.

To read the entire article, which has been shortened to fit this page, go to

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finding-the-spiritual-cause](http://jsh.christianscience.com/finding-the-spiritual-cause)**.