

## BY HIM AND FOR HIM

The way we look at and see our place in the world, determines the kind of people we are – a person with a wide or narrow vision. God would have us think in global or strategic terms. To help us do this let us consider:

*“And he is before all things and by him all things consist” (hold together) .... by him were all things created” - Colossians 1:16-17.*

He is the MAKER and MAINTAINER of the universe. He is the Originator, the Organizer and the One who keeps it in Order:

Galaxies in their appointed places.

Planets in their orbits.

Oceans held in their beds.

Rivers running down to the sea.

The mountains and the valleys bearing testimony to Him.

I see in my mind's eye the beautiful Tollymore Forest Park, here in Northern Ireland. As you leave it there is a message inscribed in a large rock. It reads:

STOP, LOOK AROUND AND PRAISE THE NAME OF HIM WHO MADE IT ALL.

The Hebrews writer, continuing this theme, says that *“he upholds all things by the word of his power” - Hebrews 1:3.*

Not an Atlas kind of God, who, as the Negro Spiritual says ‘has the whole world in His hands’, but rather that He maintains it and moves it along to an ultimate and predestined goal. Scientists tell us that the world's energy is running out. The Scripture states clearly that it will *“wax old as a garment” - Hebrews 1:11.* God is not taken by surprise at scientific discoveries. He is there behind it all, in His creatorial majesty.

*“All things have been created by him and FOR him” - Colossians 1:16.* The Apostle Paul raises a similar doxology; *“For of him and through him and unto him are all things. To him be glory for ever” - Romans 11.36.* God derives pleasure from His creation. Ultimately His own purpose and will is the reason behind all created things, and when the time is ripe He will *“fold it up as a garment” - Hebrews 1:12,* and will create new heavens and a new earth.

With an economy of words the Apostle John is inspired to write "*Behold, I make all things new*" - *Revelation 21:5*. The new creation is described in negatives, rather than positives. We will have to wait to see what the Creator has planned for the eternity to come.

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