

# Worshiping the One Who Made Us



## SABBATH—MAY 6

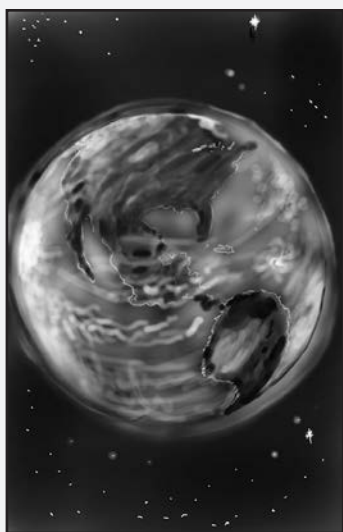
**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Revelation 1:9; Revelation 14:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 3:9; John 19:16–30.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “ ‘Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive [get] glory and honor and power [control]. You made all things. Everything existed [is alive] and was made because you wanted it’ ” (Revelation 4:11, ERV).

**HOW OFTEN DO WE STOP** and ask the important question, “How did we get here on this planet?”

This question often will lead us to ask another important question: Who made this earth and all the wonderful things on it? But what if we weren't here? What if the earth and everything in it and all the stars and planets in outer space never were made? Many scientists say that there was a time when there were no stars, planets, or suns and moons. These scientists say there wasn't even outer space. Also, these scientists say that life started from nothing. So, they think that it's a miracle that life happened on this planet at all.

We know that these ideas are false teachings. The stars and planets in outer space didn't come from nothing. Life didn't start from nothing. The Bible teaches us that God made everything there is. God made the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the planets in outer space. God made this earth and all the life on it, too.



**Who made this earth and all the wonderful things on it?**

**A FRIEND DURING HARD TIMES (Revelation 1:9)**

After Jesus went to heaven, He later came back to earth to visit John. John was the last of Jesus' Twelve Followers who was alive. John lived on Patmos Island. Patmos Island was an island where Roman leaders sent criminals. The evil Roman king Domitian sent John to the island because John preached about Jesus.

**Read Revelation 1:9. Also read Matthew 13:21; Acts 14:22; and John 16:33. What's the message in these verses for all of us who wish to follow Jesus in this life?**

John was separated from the support of his family, friends, and the Christian community. But John was not left all alone in his suffering. John's work for God was not finished. A Visitor from heaven came to John on that lonely island. The Visitor was shining and bright. He brought John a message from God on His throne in heaven. Jesus was the Messenger. The message He brought to John was a message of hope for Christians in John's day and for all Christians to the end times. The message is the book of Revelation. This book helps people get ready for Jesus' coming. This message is a warning, too. God gave it to us to encourage us as we get ready to meet the tests and troubles ahead.

If you visit Patmos Island, you can go to the cave where many people believe Jesus met John. You will see a sign at the entrance to the cave. A Bible verse is written on the sign. The verse says: " 'Fear [respect] God and give him praise. The time has come for God to judge all people. Worship God. He made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water [places where the water comes out of the earth]' " (Revelation 14:7, ERV). This verse shows us what the whole book of Revelation is all about.

The book of Revelation is about worship. God made us. He filled us with the need to worship Him. Every one of us does worship someone or something. When we worship God, we discover why we are here. When we worship God, we will have something worth dying for. More than that, we also will have a reason to live. If need be, our worship of God will help us stay strong during hard times. Then we will understand better the words that " 'we must suffer many things to enter God's kingdom' " (Acts 14:22, ICB).

**Should we expect to suffer for our faith? Explain.**



**A Visitor from heaven came to John on that lonely island.**

## WORSHIP THE ONE WHO MADE YOU (Revelation 14:7)

Read the First Angel's Message, in Revelation 14:7. How does this message end? This message tells us that the time has come for God to judge all people. What does the First Angel's Message ask us to do at this time? (Also read Isaiah 40:26; John 1:1–3; and Romans 1:20.)

Revelation 14:7 ends with the command from the first angel to us to worship God. Why? Because God made us. This command is very important for us today. That's because most scientists accept evolution. Evolution is a false teaching that says that life on earth started because of slow changes in plants and animals that happened over a very long time. If evolution is true, then our faith is a lie.

Revelation's command to worship God takes us back to Genesis, the Bible's first book. We must understand who made us and how we got here before we can understand the war between God and Satan. Then we will understand that the war between God and Satan really is about who we will worship. "In the beginning God created [made] the sky and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, ICB). This verse helps us understand the rest of the Bible. The word written as "created [made]" is "**bará**" in the Hebrew language. "**Bará**" is a verb that only is used to talk about God and what He does.

How powerful is God? Let's think about the sun. The sun makes more energy in one second than all the energy we made from oil, gas, coal, or fire since the beginning of time.

The sun is very big. You need to travel 865,000 miles to go around the sun only one time. The sun is as big as one million planets the size of our earth! But the sun is just one star in our part of space named the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way has at least 100 billion stars in it! One star in the Milky Way is named the Pistol Star. The Pistol Star gives off as much as 10 million times the energy that comes from our sun. One million stars the size of our sun can fit into the Pistol Star. So, how can anyone even begin to understand God and what He can do?

Nature shows us that God is mighty. His strength is not limited by anything. God made the skies and the earth. God also continues to keep us alive ever since life on earth started. Yes, God started life on this earth. So, we can be sure He will never fail His people while they live.



Evolution is a false teaching that says that life on earth started because of slow changes in plants and animals that happened over a very long time.

**A GOD WHO IS NEAR TO US (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

God made the sun, moon, and stars. He made this earth, too, and filled it with living things. This same God is interested in each one of us. God freed His people from slavery in Egypt. God led His people in the desert. God gave them bread from the sky. He caused the walls of Jericho to fall down. God beat Israel's enemies in war. This same God who made everything also will beat Satan and his evil angels in the war for our minds.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 139:15–18; Acts 17:27; and Colossians 1:17. What do these verses teach us about how close God wants to be to us in our hearts?**

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God is above everything He made. At the same time, God is part of our lives on this earth, as history shows us. God says, “ ‘I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with people who are humble [without pride] and sorry for their sins’ ” (Isaiah 57:15, ERV). Jesus also said about His followers: “ ‘I will be in them and you [the Father] will be in me. So they will be completely one. Then the world [people on the earth] will know that you sent me. And the world will know that you loved these people the same as you loved me’ ” (John 17:23, ICB). These verses show us how close Jesus wants to be to us in our hearts.

God is so powerful that He made all the stars and can make us new. He can change our hearts to be the same as His heart. Think about what this thought really means. God made all the stars in outer space and all the planets. “ ‘It is in [because of] Him that we live and move and keep on living’ ” (Acts 17:28, NLV). This same God also works in our hearts. He gives us new thoughts and feelings. He removes the sin from our lives and makes us clean. God makes us brand-new people in Jesus. Wow! This thought is wonderful. A powerful God loves and cares for us.

**How can the idea that God is near us give us hope and comfort us? Or does this idea scare you, because God knows all your secrets? How should the Good News about Jesus give you peace about this idea?**

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**God is so powerful that He made all the stars and also can make us new.**

## THE ONE WHO MADE US ALSO SAVES US (Ephesians 3:9)



The seventh-day Sabbath helps us remember that God made us.

Look at the First Angel's Message. What's it about? The First Angel's Message is about three things: (1) the Good News about Jesus, (2) the teaching that it's time for God to judge all people, and (3) the command to worship God because He made us. Do you see how all three of these ideas are connected? The Good News is the only thing that gives us any hope at all when God judges us. "So now anyone who is in Christ Jesus is not judged guilty" (Romans 8:1, ERV).

The message about God as the One who made us is important for our times. Evolution, as we saw, is the false science that teaches us that life started because of an accident. Evolution is an attack on the Christian faith. Worse, some people try to mix evolution together with Bible truth.

But we have hope. God has a church in these end times: the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The seventh-day Sabbath helps us remember that God made us. So, the name of our church helps everyone see that evolution is false science.

**Read Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:13–17; Revelation 4:11; and Romans 5:17–19. What do these verses teach us about Jesus as the One who made us and saves us?**

Look at how the idea that Jesus made us is connected to the idea that Jesus is our Savior. When we say Jesus didn't give us life, we show we don't value Him as our Savior. Jesus came to save us from suffering, sin, and death. Evolution teaches us that suffering, sin, and death are things that caused life to happen. So, if this false idea were true, then that means that God saves us from the very things He used to make us! This idea is a lie.

Evolution says that Jesus' death on the cross isn't important. Why? Paul connects Adam's sin to Jesus' death (read Romans 5:17–19). So, there is a strong connection between Adam and Jesus. But evolution teaches that Adam didn't cause death to happen because millions of years of death were needed to make Adam and human life to begin with.

So, we can see that evolution is an attack on the Cross. Seventh-day Adventists invite people everywhere to worship the One who made them. Seventh-day Adventists are living proof that the science of evolution is false.



## JESUS ON THE CROSS (John 19:16–30)

As we already know, the God who made us is the God who saves us. This same God said, “ ‘Now let’s make humans who will be like [the same in many ways as] us’ ” (Genesis 1:26, ERV). This same God also cried out on the cross. “About three o’clock Jesus cried out loudly, ‘*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*’ This means ‘My God, my God, why have you left me alone?’ ” (Matthew 27:46, ERV). Jesus made us and died for us. No wonder we should respect God and give Him praise and worship!

That is why the First Angel’s Message tells us to do these things: “ ‘Fear [respect] God and give him praise. The time has come for God to judge all people. Worship God. He made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water [places where the water comes out of the earth]’ ” (Revelation 14:7, ERV).

**Read John 19:16–30. In these verses, John writes about Jesus’ experience on the cross. As you read this story, think about Bible verses that teach us that Jesus made us. Paul tells us that Jesus “created [made] everything in heaven and on earth. He [Jesus] created everything that can be seen and everything that can’t be seen. He created kings, powers [kingdoms], rulers [leaders] and authorities [governments]. All things have been created by him and for him” (Colossians 1:16, NIV). How do we answer this wonderful proof of God’s love?**

This First Angel’s Message commands us to worship the One who made us. The first angel gives this command after Jesus already died on the cross. Jesus’ followers on earth knew that Jesus “made the heavens [skies], the earth, the sea, and the springs of water [places where the water comes out of the earth]” (Revelation 14:7, ERV). Jesus’ followers also knew that He was God. The followers knew that this same God “put aside [gave up] everything that belonged to Him and made Himself the same as a servant who is owned by someone. He became human by being born as a man. After He became a man, He gave up His important place [His throne] and obeyed by dying on a cross” (Philippians 2:7, 8, NIV).

**Do we need to add anything more to Jesus’ offering for our sins on the cross? Or is His death enough to save us? Explain your answer in class.**



This First Angel’s Message commands us to worship the One who made us.



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**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Worshiping God is one of the most important teachings in the Bible. In the Old Testament, God's prophets, or special messengers, warned God's people not to worship other gods. We see that this same problem is part of the worldwide war between God and Satan today. Another problem we see today is that many people who say they are Christians also teach that we no longer need to keep God's law.

"Worship is one of the most important parts of our lives. What should humans do when they learn about God and understand who He is? They should worship Him. . . . Only living people can worship the Lord. The dead can't praise or worship Him. . . . The God who made us invites us to give our lives to Him. This gift is the same as worship. God will give us back our lives so that we can serve Him and be a blessing to other people. God will make our lives better, too. Worship is about who we are as humans and the reasons why we are here on this earth. Worship is about our need for something outside ourselves that frees us from selfishness. What if we choose not to worship God? Then we will become confused and lose our reason for living. A life without God is the same thing as dying. Why? Because without God, we will be separated from God Himself. He is the Giver of all life."—Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, "The Closing of the Cosmic Conflict: Role of the Three Angels' Messages," (from an unpublished paper), page 42, adapted.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① We know that God made us. At the same time, why do we, as sinners, need the promise of a Savior, too?
- ② How has God shown His love for you in a personal way? This same God also made all the stars in the sky and everything else! This same God loves you enough to care about your life. Why should this Bible truth give you comfort? Why should it cause you to empty your heart of all pride, too?
- ③ Pretend for a moment that evolution is true. If it's true, that means we are worshipping a God who used billions of years of death, pain, suffering, and tragedy to make us. At the same time, this false idea changes everything that Genesis 1 and 2 teach. If evolution is true, how could we worship God? Worship Him for what? For lying to us for thousands of years about how we got here on this earth?

## SAVED FROM ALCOHOL

**B**ack in the 1970s, two sets of Navajo Indian parents sent their teenagers to live and study at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian school. One student was named Dennis. The other student was named Gloria. At Holbrook School, Dennis and Gloria met. Then they both met Jesus and got baptized. Later, they got married in the new Seventh-day Adventist church in Chinle, Arizona, where Dennis grew up. Dennis and Gloria were the first couple to get married in the church.

When Dennis and Gloria Fulton had a baby, they took him to church. So, baby Oliver grew up knowing that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was his church. But somehow, Oliver never really met Jesus. His mom, Gloria, was a nurse. She worked a lot at the local hospital. So, she didn't have a lot of time to teach her son about Jesus. Worse, Oliver's father, Dennis, had a drinking problem. Oliver himself started drinking when he was a teenager.

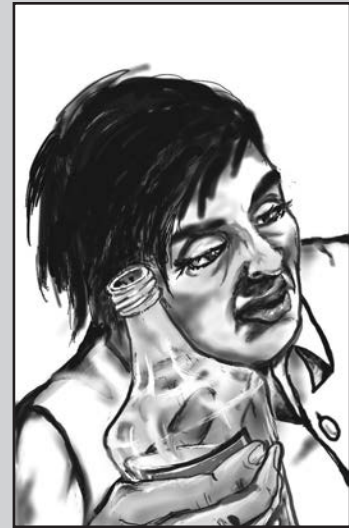
Oliver finished public high school and moved to the city to study computer science. Oliver saw that alcohol controlled his life. When he turned 38, he moved back home to Chinle, where he knew his mom prayed for him. Oliver started to go to the church he grew up in as a child. He hoped something would change for him. The church held meetings for people who wanted to stop drinking and using drugs. 80 Navajo people came to the meetings. They met in the church fellowship hall five nights a week. The meeting was named "Jesus and Me." After Oliver started to go the meetings, his life changed.

In the meantime, the church pastor saw Oliver sitting in church on Sabbath and invited him to lunch the next week. The meal filled Oliver with hope. Oliver said, "When I came back home to live with my parents, I thought I was a terrible sinner. Jesus would never let me into heaven. But I thought that maybe if I stopped getting drunk, I could help some other people get to heaven. At lunch that day, the pastor told me that Jesus forgives my sins. Jesus accepts me just as I am. I was so surprised. This news gave me hope."

Oliver stopped drinking four years ago. At his church, Oliver met a woman, Traci. Traci told Oliver that Jesus saved her from drugs. The pastor baptized Oliver just days before Oliver and Traci got married. They were married in the same church where his parents were married 40 years earlier.

Today, Oliver leads the church's meetings to help people stop drinking and get off drugs. Oliver's dad also has stopped drinking, too. Oliver and his dad sit together in church next to their wives on Sabbaths. Thanks for your offerings that support Seventh-day Adventist schools and education.

INSIDE  
*Story*  
by DALE WOLCOTT



**Oliver started drinking when he was a teenager.**

