

## The Creator Guides Me Genesis 2:1-9

### Our Songs Have Meaning

It is important that we consider context and purpose in the songs we sing.

Without this we may miss the point and have questions about phrases or words.

Such is the case with two hymns that we sing regularly.

In some previous notes about song difficulties, I found two questions that illustrate this situation.

I do not know who provided these questions, or when.

### Our God, He Is Alive #9

Written by Aaron Wesley Dicus

Served as academic dean of Florida College in the 1950's

Song well known through use by Florida College Chorus

A look at the chorus helps us see the context/message of this hymn.

**Chorus** *There is a God, He is alive, in Him we live, and we survive; From dust our God Created man, He is our God, the great I AM.*

Our Creator Lives!

It is easy to see Creation in the message of this song.

**V 1** *There is, beyond the azure blue, a God concealed from human sight, He tinted skies with heav'nly hue and framed the worlds with His great might.*

It also includes the message of God's continual care and concern for His created beings.

**V 2** *There was, a long long time ago, a God whose voice the prophets heard, He is the God that we should know, who speaks from His inspired Word.*

Not only in providing instruction but ultimately paying the price for our sin so that we could be with Him in eternity

**V 4** *Our God, whose Son upon a tree, a life was willing there to give, That He from sin might set man free, and evermore with Him could live.*

The third verse is where some have shown concern.

**V 3** *Secure, is life from mortal mind, God holds the germ within His hand, tho' men may search they cannot find, for God alone does understand.*

Question - "tho men may search, they cannot find" - we do search His Word and find Eternal Life.

I do not see this verse as speaking of eternal life, that comes in verse 4.

The reference in verse 3 is to the "germ" of life which points us to Creation.

Only God can fully know how Man was formed and given life - **Genesis 2:7**

We can do many marvelous things through our continually expanding knowledge of plants, animals, and man. We have made great strides in technology also. But we cannot, and never will Create Life.

Most recently many are excited about "artificial intelligence."

But the knowledge of giving life is beyond our ability

Returning to the chorus

**Chorus** *There is a God, He is alive, in Him we live, and we survive; From dust our God Created man, He is our God, the great I AM.*

The one who created us IS!

Remember Jesus was involved in Creation - **John 1:1-3,14; 8:58**

Not was, not will be, but always IS!

And as our verses remind us, He actively seeks our well-being, in fact ...

### He Leadeth Me #407

**Psalm 23**

Written by baptist preacher Joseph Henry Gilmore

Originally a poem written during a conversation about how a recent lesson from Psalm 23 applies to their present situation at the height of Civil War. He gave it to his wife and thought no more about it. A few years later he discovered, to his surprise, it had been published as a hymn due to actions taken by his wife. (Wayne Walker – Hymn Studies Blog; 101 Hymn Stories)

While this story may be interesting, we are more concerned with the hymn itself.

A concern that has been expressed about this song regards the idea of God leading "by His hand." As this phrase is found in 2 verses and repeated in the chorus, it could be a problem for some to sing this song.

**Chorus** *He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me: His faithful follow'r I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.*

The question was posed to me "Why not say "by His Word"?"

My short answer is "that would not fit the intimacy this hymn illustrates can be found in our relationship with God."

Reading **Psalm 23** I often envision it as Jesus walking beside me for both protection and companionship.

This is enhanced by adding the imagery of His hand guiding me along the path. Whether a comforting hand on my shoulder or back or clasping mine, this image presents a loving guide like a parent or protector.

When a young child walks with a parent or older sibling they might reach for a hand as they move into difficult or scary areas.

We need God's hand to guide us safely through life.

It is imagery found in Scripture - **Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 50:2; Jeremiah 31:32**

Also in other songs:

"Jesus, Hold My Hand" - "Hand In Hand With Jesus"

"Take My Hand Precious Lord" - "Take My Hand And Lead Me"

With these thoughts in mind consider the blessed comfort of knowing God always guides my way

**V 1** *He leadeth me! O blessed tho't! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

Even in "the valley of the shadow of death" or any difficulty (such as the war prevalent at the time of writing and our own troubled times) God is with us leading the way

**V 2** *Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom, By waters still, o'er troubled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

Thoughts and concerns about death enter our minds from time to time. The strength and peace we, as Christians, enjoy regarding our time of leaving this life come directly from our knowledge that God is with us through death.

He, through Jesus, has shown that death is not to be feared or considered an end. It is just a step "thru Jordan" into eternal bliss.

**V 3** *And when my task on earth is done, When by God's grace, the vict'ry's won, E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God thru Jordan leadeth me.*

What a wonderful thought to those weary from the journey of life.

**Chorus** *He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me: His faithful follow'r I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.*

## **The Creator Guides Thru Life & Death**

**Romans 8:31-39**

Do you walk with The Creator?

Or will you face death's dark valley alone?

Only God truly knows how to give life

Submit and know the blessing & comfort of the living God walking with you.

DLH