

HIS

Nature

“By the meekness and gentleness of Christ,
I appeal to you.”

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1

GOD'S AURORAS

On May 29, 2009, God blessed Chicago, Illinois, with a temperature of seventy-seven degrees Fahrenheit on a delightful spring afternoon. Meanwhile, that same day, the center of the Sun seethed with an inconceivable temperature of 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. And a lethal “tidal wave” of energy—in the form of electromagnetic radiation and solar wind—swept past Earth. How did Jesus Christ keep Chicago from being consumed, and what does this tell us about our Creator?

Cosmic rays, X-rays, and most ultraviolet rays produced by the Sun are absorbed in the upper 90 percent of the atmosphere. It's only at or near the Earth's surface that we are relatively free of deadly solar radiation. Christ Jesus engineered this layer of air to act as a transparent filter to screen out



Aurora Borealis

the Sun's harmful rays. At the same time, he allows life-giving sunshine to pass through this atmospheric shield and gently bathe his creation.

Solar wind, on the other hand, presents the world with a different challenge—a constant barrage of supercharged electrons and protons that shoot out from the Sun at one million miles per hour! Our Lord Jesus protects all the towns and cities around the world from this onslaught of subatomic bullets by positioning our planet

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at the center of an enormous, teardrop-shaped magnetic field. The magnetosphere, as it's called, deflects the high-speed missiles of the solar wind away from Earth.

Since the beginning of time, our Creator has hinted at the presence of this magnetic mantle and his incomparable grace of protection. He allows a little of the solar wind to leak into the atmosphere around the north and south poles, creating the breathtaking aurora borealis in the northern hemisphere and aurora australis in the southern hemisphere.

These auroras mirror God's splendor and love, for it is Christ's design of the magnetosphere—along with the atmosphere—that protects all of mankind from certain death. God reduces the intensity of the Sun's radiation a millionfold as it travels from its fiery heart to Earth. And on May 29, 2009, as the Sun sizzled with many millions of degrees, Chicago basked in pleasant spring weather.

What a contrast, clearly reflecting God's character of meekness. Meekness is not weakness, but power under control. We read about this

divine attribute in Matthew 26:52-54. While being arrested for crimes he did not commit, Jesus informs his disciples that he could at any moment ask his Father for many thousands of angels to defend him. (This is startling when we remember from 2 Kings 19:35 that *one* angel killed 185,000 men overnight.) But the Messiah did not request a show of power because his sweet love was about to shine forth God's glory on the cross.

Our almighty Creator blankets the Earth in his meekness—for now. And Chicago will probably experience many more lovely spring days, all to the honor of our gracious Lord Jesus Christ.

The next time we're tempted to complain about the weather, however, let's recall the temperature extremes between the Sun and Earth, and remember that Christ's Father lavishes his infinite kindness on us all every moment of our lives.

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"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

MATTHEW 5:45