

Rhema Christian Center
Bible Study: September 28, 2021
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^{KJV} Psalms 19:1-14

A Psalm of David: Written to the Chief Musician

It is uncertain when this Psalm was written.

Psalms 19 has two subjects:

- Pre-exilic nature verses 1-6
- Hymn` in praise of the law verses 7-14

Introduction

The emphases in this Psalm are on God's revelations of Himself in creation, scripture and the human heart.

In verses 1-4 David personifies aspects of God's creation, (Genesis chapter 1) especially things that appear in the heavens. The reason for this is "because all of us, before conversion, have had some concept of **God**. For some of us religious folk, that concept was sincerely believed and practiced. But for some their concept of God is drawn from the creation and some denied the existence of the true and living God. "

Personal thought, what would you believe if you didn't have any one to teach you or anything to go by?

Psalm 19 KJV

In verses 1-4 God's creation bears witness to God's authority and gives people a picture or an idea that God exists.
V1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handwork.

The "glory of God is the invisible qualities, character, or attributes of God displaying in a visible (or knowable way.)

The firmament in Hebrew is raqiyah: an expanse -an example the visible arch of the sky (or dome of the sky) It bears witness to God's creative power in nature.

The stars speak no language... they proclaim to all the earth shine night after night. They know and declare that they are created,

The concepts of the glory of God are his authoritative presence in creation, salvation, or judgment. His authoritative presence fills the whole earth.

V2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

V3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

V4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Consider **Genesis 1:1, 6-10, 12 AMPC** "In the beginning God (prepared, formed, fashioned, and) created the heavens and the earth. And God said, Let there be a firmament [the expanse of the sky] in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters [below] from the waters [above]. And God made the firmament [the expanse] and separated the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse. And it was so. And **God called the firmament Heavens**. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day. And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be collected into one place [of standing], and let the dry land appear. And it was so. **God called the dry land Earth**, and the **accumulated waters He called Seas**. And God saw that this was good (fitting, admirable) and He approved it. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed according to

their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which was their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it.

V4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

Paul quotes from the septuagint version uses of the word sound instead of line. Some translations use "influence" instead of line.

God's voice of power in creation prepares the way for His voice of grace in the gospel.

Romans 10:18 AMPC "But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed, they have; [for the Scripture says] Their voice [that of nature bearing God's message] has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the far bounds of the world."

Note. The whole world has heard both Gentiles and Jews stand guilty before God and need to be saved through faith in Jesus.

We must take the salvation message to them. Read Romans 10:1-5.

In Romans 1:19-21 AMPC Paul speaks "For that which is known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness, because God [Himself] has shown it to them. For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature and attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible and clearly discernible in and through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So [men] are without excuse [altogether without any defense or justification], Because when they knew and recognized Him as God, they did not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks. But instead, they became futile and godless in their thinking [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves]. Romans

V5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoice as a strong man to run a race.

V6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

In verses 5-6 the testimony of nature, "They have no audible voice and speak no intelligible language. The stars with a mysterious knowledge day after day they proclaim to the earth. They know and declare that they are created and are kept in their places by the authoritative word of God.

The sun waits the night in his tent (In firmament) at the extremity of the earth. At the time appointed he emerges, glowing with the radiance of a bride groom and the strength of an athlete. He completes the circuit by returning to his tent at night". (The Interp. Bible)

In verses 7-14 Hymn to the Law

This Hymn consist of statements of the nature of the land and its effect on human life. (Vs 7-9)

Followed by a prayer for the aid in keeping the law. (10-14)

V 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

The law of the land is the Hebrew word Torah which means "instructions, directions and teaching.

“The law is a living expression of the totality of God’s will. It is God’s self-witness to his will (testimony), his standing orders to and detailed demand upon the people (commandment and precepts)” (The Interp. Bible)

Psalm 111:7 AMPC says “The works of His hands are [absolute] truth and justice [faithful and right]; and all His decrees and precepts are sure (fixed, established, and trustworthy).

Psalm 119:130 AMPC “The entrance and unfolding of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple

V 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

The statutes of the Law...these are God’s detailed instructions concerning matters of everyday life.

Old Testament Jews the statutes were related to how they dressed, what they ate, how to keep clean etc

The New Testament epistle repeat nine of the ten Commandments for the believers today, omitting the fourth Commandment. (Read later Eph 4:20-32)

The Commandment of the Lord ..tells us what to do and warns us what not to do.

V9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

The judgment of the Lord (verdict, decision) of a Judge.

In the Bible the Lord passed Judgment on what people and Nations do.

Believers today are not under the Old Testament Law. But those “Laws” were applied helps us understand the righteousness of God and our need for salvation.

V10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Proverbs 8:10-11, 19 BSB SAYS “Receive my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire compares with her. My fruit is better than gold, pure gold, and my harvest surpasses choice silver.

The harvest here is talking about “the Harvest of souls”

V 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

The word of God gives instruction warning that wealth or pleasures do not give (is warned) ie.

- Warning is needed for sins we are susceptible to.
- Warning is needed for dangers we cannot see.
- Warning is needed for dangers we cannot appreciate’
- warning is needed for dangers far off in the future.

In vs 11b there is great reward

One of the great rewards of keeping the word of God “is a peace of mind and a quiet conscience,”

V12 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

By the Law is the knowledge of sin. Secret sin is those we don't see ourselves. We don't recognize we've committed.

We are still accountable for our errors and secret faults before God, and must trust in his atonement to cleanse us from errors and secret sins.

Atonement: the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ,

(W. Dictionary)

David prays a prayer of Repentance "HAVE MERCY upon me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to the multitude of Your tender mercy and loving-kindness blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly [and repeatedly] from my iniquity and guilt and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin! Psalm 51:1-2 AMPC

V13 Keep back thy servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Presumptuous sins are intentional rebellious sinful act or deliberate, willful, arrogant. (W. Dictionary)

Things that make sins presumptuous are:

- When you know better
- When God himself has warned us
- When friends have warned us,
- When we plan and relish our sins

The description of error, secret fought and presumptuous sins have a progression:

- It goes from passing temptation to chosen thoughts (error)
- It goes from chosen thoughts to object of meditation
- It goes from object meditation to wished for fulfillment (secret faults)
- It goes from wished-for fulfillment to plan action
- It goes from planned action to opportunity sought
- It goes from opportunity sought to performed act
- It goes from action to repeated action
- It goes from repeated action to delight (presumption sins)
- It goes from delight to new and various ways
- It goes from habit to Idolatry
- It goes from idolatry to sacrifice

All along the continuum the Holy Spirit and hopefully our conscience says NO STOP.

We are given a way of escape by God.

“But the person who does anything [wrong] willfully and openly, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one reproaches, reviles, and blasphemes the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from among his people [that the atonement made for them may not include him].” Numbers 15:30 AMPC

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:12-14 KJV

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; And I shall keep it unto the end. Psalm 119:33 KJV

V14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

David has said the Law of God is perfect will of God for individual and the world. Now David is conscious of his own imperfection

David ends this Psalm with a prayer- asking for deliverance from the grasp of presumptuous sins.

He asks God to accept his speech and meditation of his heart.

Amen

Let's end with reading the words of this song.

“O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed,
Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to thee.
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.”