

God Revealed  
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Psalm 19

Opening: You know that moment when you look at a scene in nature and say to yourself, *“How can anyone look at this and doubt that there is a God?”* **What are examples of places or things in God’s creation that make you feel that way?**

Illustration: That place is awesome...so I’ve heard!

C. S. Lewis said of Psalm 19: *“I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.”*<sup>1</sup>

- Psalm 19 beautifully describes how the majesty of creation is a reflection of the majesty of the Creator; but knowing there IS a God isn’t the same as KNOWING Him personally.
- I can show someone a picture of Susan and they will be impressed; after they meet her and experience her personality, they will REALLY be impressed!

Big Idea: God’s creation reflects His glory and His greatness! But we don’t have to be satisfied with just a picture of God; we can KNOW him personally. To really know who God is, we have to look “intently” into His word.

Let’s begin by reading all fourteen verses of Psalm 19 (ESV)

**The Law of the Lord Is Perfect**

**19** To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out through all the earth,

and their words to the end of the world.

5 In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his  
chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure,  
making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the Lord is clean,  
enduring forever;

the rules of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart

be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

- Some students of the Bible have speculated this might be two Psalms of David “stitched together,” because he seems to change the subject after the first six verses.
- Other scholars (with whom I agree) see a logical progression to David’s poem, “from general revelation to special revelation to conviction of sin caused by receiving God’s revelation.”<sup>2</sup> Let me define those terms:
  - o General Revelation = The glory of God revealed in creation
    - Available generally to everyone who looks at nature.
  - o Special Revelation = The glory of God revealed in His word
    - Available only to people who read God’s Word.
  - o Conviction of Sin = David’s desire to be clean from sin that was exposed by God’s revelation.<sup>3</sup>
- Verse one says the “heavens” declare God’s glory. The heavens means, the sky filled with clouds and birds; the galaxies of stars and planets; and the place where God’s “people will spend eternity.”
- Verse two: Day after day and night after night the heavens are communicating about the glory of God. But verse three says, “...there is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard.” **Is this a contradiction? Why? Why not?**
- Verse four seems to connect with what Paul wrote in Romans 1 when he was referring to sinful people who act like there is no God: *Romans 1:19–20 (ESV)* <sup>19</sup> *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*
- “Actions speak louder than words!” Sometimes they speak “volumes!” God’s creation speaks “volumes” about His glory and majesty.

- **What's the irony about some people who are passionate about nature and our environment and how they view God?**
- Verses four through six: David describes the daily movement of the sun in three ways: God has “pitched a tent for the sun (night);” a “bridegroom coming from his home;” and, “an athlete running a course.”
- In David’s time, people worshiped the sun, moon, and stars. *“The Egyptians worshiped the sun god Ra and believed that the Pharaoh was Ra’s offspring. The Babylonians invented the zodiac and astrology.”* David’s point: we don’t worship the creation we worship the creator.
- God’s creation reflects His glory and His greatness! But we don’t have to be satisfied with just a picture of God; we can KNOW him personally.
- To really know who God is, we have to look “intently” into His word.
- In verse seven, we said David seems to change the subject. But it’s really just an extension of what he has written so far. *“If God’s creation blows you away, just wait till you hear from Him personally and directly!”*
- **Question: What would you answer if someone asked you ‘How does reading the Bible help you in your life?’**
- In verses seven through nine, David lists 18 qualities of scripture. In the world of business we might call this a listing of “features and benefits.”
  - o God’s instruction is perfect; it refreshes and renews your life.
  - o His testimony can be trusted and it makes the inexperienced wise.
  - o His precepts are right and they make the heart glad.
  - o His commands are radiant making the eyes light up.
  - o His word produces reverence (godly fear) that endures forever.
  - o His rules (ordinances) are reliable and righteous.
- **What does the revelation in scripture do for us that the revelation in nature does not?<sup>4</sup>**

- In verse ten David talks about the value and sweetness of God's word.
- More desirable than gold – much, pure gold! Question: When you are in your last moments of life what will you desire, a pile of cash as you leave, or a mind filled with the promises of God? Will your family stand by your bed and read your 401k statement to you, or the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm?
- It's so sad when people read and hear more scripture in the last days of their earthly life than they did in all the years before. They missed out on all that "gold" they never dug out of the mine of God's word.
- God's word is not only valuable it's satisfying! David said God's word is "*sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.*"
- The great puritan preacher Jonathan Edwards wrote: "*There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness.*"<sup>5</sup> **How does that quote apply here?**
- It's one thing to intellectually believe that honey is sweet; having its sticky goodness on your tongue is the real deal!
- Illustration: Matt and Farrah's baked Alaska at Marselle.
- I can tell someone what I believe about God's word, but it's much more powerful to describe it's sweetness in my life because I've tasted it!
- Some of us will spend a week anticipating a favorite meal at a special restaurant (and that's fun!) Do we hunger for the sweetness of God's word in the same way? Are we feasting on His word or just looking at the pictures in a cookbook?
- Is it accurate to say that God's word is the most reliable way He speaks to us personally? Agree? Consider: How rude is it when someone is trying to talk to you and you ignore him or her? What if they were trying to tell you something to save your life and you didn't have time to listen? Hmmm.
- Read verses twelve and thirteen. **How does God's word reveal when we fall short of His standard? Isn't our conscience enough? Why?**

- God’s word is a sophisticated diagnostic tool for the sinful soul. Better than an x-ray or a CT scan that looks inside your body, it can both identify and eradicate hidden sin in my life.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- God’s word will reveal unintentional sin and willful sins. After the sins are revealed, David says God’s word is the “antibiotic” needed to kill sin and the preventative medicine to keep them from ruling (and ruining) my life.
- It’s not enough to just know about x-rays, CT scans, and miracle drugs, I have to actually come in contact with them!

James 1:25 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

- When you care about someone or something you don’t just give a passing glance, you gaze intently.
- If you were sick and heard about a treatment that had been reported to work 100% of the time over thousands of years you wouldn’t just shrug your shoulders, you’d look into it -- INTENTLY. You’d be Googling your fingers off to learn about it!

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- If I gave you the choice of a photo album of the Grand Canyon or a trip to see it, I doubt you’d be content with the pictures.
- If you had to choose between a review of a great restaurant or a meal there, which would you pick?

- It's true that God's creation reflects His glory and His greatness; but knowing there IS a God isn't the same as KNOWING Him personally.
- We don't have to be satisfied with just a picture of God. We can KNOW His thoughts, absorb His wisdom, learn how to live our lives, and be convicted of where we fail, and shown how to fix those failures.
- In verse fourteen, David prays to God the outcome he desires from looking intently into God's word: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."*
- We can only please God in that way by looking intently into the "perfect law" of His word. It's sweeter than honey! Let's spend some time tasting and obeying it this week.
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<sup>1</sup> [C. S. Lewis, \*Reflections on the Psalms\*](#) (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1958), [ISBN 0-15-676248-X](#) p.63

<sup>2</sup> Explore the Bible: Adult Leader Guide - Summer 2017 - Lifeway

<sup>3</sup> IBID

<sup>4</sup> *Serendipity Bible: New International Version*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 1996. Print.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/14742401>