

Psalm 19

Introduction

1. David is the author
2. Unique Elements:
 - a) A creation psalm.
 - b) Anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or nature)
 - Heavens tell (1)
 - Expanse declares
 - Day pours forth speech (2)
 - Night reveals knowledge
 - c) Simile (like or as): “**sun as like a bridegroom...**” v. 4-5
 - d) Synonymous parallelism: 1, 3, 4
 - e) Contrast: vs. 1 & 2 compared with v. 3
 - f) Visual Imagery: bridegroom, gold, honey (dripping)
 - g) Subtle comparison—the words of creation vs. God’s Word

A. General Revelation (19:1-6)

1. General revelation refers to that which is revealed about God through His creation
2. These first six verses focus on what the “**heavens**” declare about God:
 - a. Heavens here refers to that which is above the earth, and likely includes not just the sky but all the celestial bodies
 - b. All the objects in the universe were designed to communicate to man (Genesis 1:14-19)
3. The heavens have a purpose: “**The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands**” (1)
 - a. The glory of God: so what is God’s glory?
 - 1) Romans 1:20 says it this way: “**For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...**”
 - 2) So, things like his righteousness, holiness, justice, splendor, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, etc.
 - b. The work of His hands: Creation itself
4. Their (heavens) revelation is expansive, but limited (2-6):
 - a. They are constantly revealing God (there is no time when it is silent): “**day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge**” (2)
 - b. There is no place where God is not seen:
 - 1) “**Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterance to the end of the world**” (4)
 - 2) Use of the bride groom metaphor (4b-6)

- c. According to Romans 1:20, God’s revelation through His creation is so expansive and complete that no man has an excuse to deny the existence of God or His true nature: **“For since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made so that they are without excuse.”**
- d. There is a limit, however, to what the heavens declare: **“There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard”** (3)
 - 1) At first v. 3 seems to be in contrast with 2 & 4 and v. 3
 - 2) The KJV, NKJV and ESV attempt to deal with this by rendering it as “there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard” or **“whose voice is not heard”**
 - 3) The NET takes a different approach: **“There is no actual speech or word, nor is its voice literally heard”**
 - a) This is likely the way the author intended it to be understood—words are not needed to describe the things that the heavens declare; they do it just fine without Words
 - b) It also foreshadows what the author writes in vs. 7-14 where there are actual words
- 5. Two additional things to keep in mind:
 - a. This is all still true even though God’s creation is now corrupt through the Fall and man is viewing it through sinful, fallen eyes (otherwise Paul could not have written what he did in Romans 1)
 - b. Even though creation still perfectly reveals God, man suppresses that truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1)

B. Special Revelation (19:7-14)

- 1. Special revelation refers to that which is revealed about God and His creation through His spoken and written Word
- 2. It is only limited to that which God has chosen to reveal
- 3. This section can be broken down into two smaller sections:
 - a. Declarative statements about God’s Word (7-9)
 - b. David’s response and prayer (10-14)
- 4. Declarative statements about God’s Word (six of them followed by a summary):
 - a. **“The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul”** (7a):
 - 1) **Perfect:** refers to being complete and sound, fully capable of something
 - 2) **Restoring the soul:** best understood as restoring one’s life (both here and now as well as eternally):
 - 1) Proverbs 3:1-4
 - 2) John 5:24; 6:68
 - b. **“The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”** (7b):
 - 1) **Sure:** trustworthy
 - 2) **Simple:** those who are inexperienced or naïve, simple minded
 - c. **“The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart”** (8a):
 - 1) **Right:** comes from the word for straight

- 2) **Rejoicing** the heart: this rightness of God’s Word causes the heart to fill with joy
- d. **“The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes”** (8b):
 - 1) **Pure**: not mixed with error (unlike other religious writings)
 - 2) **Enlightening the eyes**: to become aware of the Truth
- e. **“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever”** (9a):
 - 1) **Fear**: proper reverence and understanding of God based off what He has revealed about himself
 - 2) **Enduring forever**:
 - a) Isaiah 40:8: **“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”**
 - b) Matthew 24:35: **“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”**
- f. **“The judgments of the LORD are true, they are righteous altogether”** (9b)
 - 1) **True**: at the root refers to firmness or certainty, therefore true and reliable
 - 2) **Righteous altogether**: the word used here implies morally just, righteous—through and through (altogether)

NOTE: What David is talking about here is salvation, both here and now as well as eternally. After Jesus declared himself the bread of life in John 6 many of his followers left. When Jesus asked the twelve if they wanted to leave as well, Peter responded, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.”

- 5. David’s response and prayer:
 - a. After reflecting on the nature and character of God’s Word, David makes two final declarations: (10-12a):
 - 1) God’s Word is desirable: **“They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”**

Harvesting honey in biology class

- 2) There is value in God’s word because it warns us and rewards us: **“Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. [Without them] Who can discern his errors?”**
- b. David’s prayer (12b-14):
 - 1) This prayer must be seen in light of what David just declared about God’s Word
 - 2) It is through God’s Word that he will be acquitted of his faults; kept back from presumptuous sins, not having them rule over him
 - 3) It is through God’s Word that he will find blamelessness, be acquitted of great transgression
 - 4) It is through God’s Word that he will discover how the words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart will be acceptable in God’s sight
 - 5) It is through God’s Word that he will discover the LORD, his rock and his Redeemer

Conclusion

Major Theme: Creation declares God's glory and His work, but only His Word can bring salvation