

Psalm 19:1-6  
God's Revealed Truth in Creation

**Introduction:** I want to go back to address this Psalm because I want to bridge our studies in Genesis 1 with what we are about to rejoin in Luke. I plan to take three weeks to complete this Psalm. This psalm is found in the first book of Psalms (1-41). This first section (19:1-6) addresses God as El, emphasizing His glory. The second section (19:7-11) addresses God as Yahweh, emphasizing His will. The third section (19:12-14) address God's designed response by His creatures to His self-revelation. Ronald Allen reminds us, "Greater than all creation is the revelation of God's glory in His Word." (*Praise! A Matter of Life and Breath*, 131)

**Superscription:** *To the music director. A Psalm of David.*

**God reveals His glory through creation in general—19:1-4a**

- 1) A God-centered revelation—19:1 (emphasis on His sovereign power)
  - a) <sup>1</sup> *The heavens are making known [Piel ptc.] the glory of God [EL];*
    - i) Glory is the evidence of God's importance, preeminence, and greatness.
  - b) *and the expanse is presenting [Hiphil ptc.] the works of His hands.*
    - i) Lit. "the works of His hands is presenting the expanse"
    - ii) God has no hands, nor did He use hands to create. He simply spoke all things into existence. Cp. Psalm 8:1, 3; Romans 1:20; Acts 14:17
  - c) Apart from God's grace, people will respond only with either astrology or astronomy, but not with genuine worship of the Creator.
- 2) A persistent revelation—19:2 (note the imperfect form, incomplete action)
  - a) <sup>2</sup> *Day to day pours out [Hiphil impf.] (like a bubbling spring) speech,*
  - b) *and night to night declares [Piel impf.] knowledge.*
  - c) "What is ever pouring forth constantly is the evidence of the majesty and power of God. The knowledge the heavens proclaim concerns the nature of God; the act of creating everything by his own will and through his own command reveals his power; the vast expanse of the universe and all its complexities reveals his infinity and sovereignty; the perfect functioning of all aspects of creation reveals his wisdom; and the beauty of all creation reveals the beauty of God." (Ross, 1:475)
- 3) A silent revelation—19:3
  - a) <sup>3</sup> *There is no speech nor are there words;*
  - b) *their voice is not heard [Niphal ptc.].*
- 4) A universal revelation—19:4a
  - a) <sup>4</sup> *Their line (of text; cf. Isaiah 28:10, 13) has gone out [Qal pf.] through all the earth,*
  - b) *and their words to the end of the world.*

**God's revelation through the sun specifically—19:4b-6**

- 1) The Sovereign placement of the sun—19:4b
  - a) *In them He has pitched a tent [Qal pf.] for the sun, (a place to stay at night)*

- b) The sun is not a rival god as the various religious cultures of the surrounding nations taught, but rather it is controlled by the Creator.
- 2) The passionate motion and joy of the sun—19:5
  - a) Illustration of the bridegroom—19:5a <sup>5</sup> *which, like a bridegroom coming out [Qal act. ptc.] of his bridal chamber [chuppah],*
  - b) Illustration of the warrior—19:5b *it rejoices [Qal impf.] like a strong man to run [Qal inf. cstr.] his path.*
- 3) The inescapable impact of the sun—19:6
  - a) <sup>6</sup> *Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to their other ends;*
  - b) *and there is nothing hidden [Niphal ptc.] from its heat.*
    - i) Every place on this planet has felt the warmth of the sun.

### **Additional thoughts on general/unwritten revelation**

- 1) General revelation is manifest in four primary spheres.
  - a) Creation
    - i) God exists and is glorious—Psalm 19:1-6
    - ii) God is omnipotent and will judge—Romans 1:18-32
  - b) People
    - i) As God's image-bearers—Acts 17:28-29
  - c) Providence
    - i) God's benevolence—Matthew 5:45
    - ii) God's provision—Acts 14:15-17
    - iii) God's rulers—Daniel 2:21
  - d) Conscience—Romans 2:14-15
- 2) Problems with general revelation
  - a) Sin darkens our understanding, gives a bias to our will, and weakens our intellect.
- 3) Characteristics of general revelation
  - a) It is **deliberate**: "Creation is not to be worshiped; it is a witness to the Creator who is to be worshiped. Creation does not give the law or champion justice, but Yahweh, the God of creation does." (Ross, 1:477)
  - b) It is **limited/partial**: "Nothing is learned from the stars about God's grace or His ethical character. The heavens are mute about His loyal love." (Allen, 133)
    - i) "There is no gospel in the stars." (McCune, 1:176, footnote 12)
  - c) It is **condemnatory**: "No human has any excuse for failing to recognize the authority of the creator God." (Wilson, 1:365)

**Take-home truth:** Father, grant me grace to see Your glory and power as evidenced in creation and to genuinely worship You in light of what You have made.