

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) ¹ *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) ² *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) ³ *There is no speech nor are there words;*
 - b) *their voice is not heard [Niphal ptc.].*
- 4) A universal revelation—19:4a
 - a) ⁴ *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 ⁵ *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) ⁶ *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.