

Psalm 19:1 - 6 — “God’s Glory Revealed in the VISIBLE WORLD”

****READ THE TEXT****

INTRO-

Introductory Illustration

- Every single person in the world knows GOD exists. God has revealed Himself and put himself on display.
 - It was Jonathan Edwards who said: God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied.
 - Edwards elsewhere affirmed: *“God’s purpose for my life was that I have a passion for God’s glory and that I have a passion for my joy in that glory, and that these two are one passion.”*
 - Resolution #4 - Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body...but what tends to be for the glory of God;
- What is the GLORY OF GOD? It’s the worth of God’s character. [the magnificence of His being!]. **Indeed:** It’s the:
 - ✓The **worth** of God,
 - ✓The **weightiness** of God,
 - ✓The **essence** of God,
 - ✓The **magnification** is God,
 - ✓The **enjoyment** of God!
- As Piper succinctly said: I believe the glory of God is **the going public of his infinite worth.**
- how does GOD go public with his worth? in THE SKIES, IN THE SCRIPTURES & IN THE SON. [in the visible world, in the written Word, in the Incarnate/Divine Son]
 - There is only one chief purpose for your life: to glorify God. [to attribute praise to Him]
 - This is God’s chief pursuit & joy as well: the magnification of HIS OWN glory.

Background to Psalm 19

- CS Lewis called Ps 19: “the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world”. The poet of this psalm has stimulated the creative works of Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart!!
- David penned this poetic masterpiece and it’s called a “**Psalm**” - a Hebrew word meaning *plucking, a song, for a stringed instrument.* **Ps 19 is a Mini-Psalter.** >> brings together a theme with which the psalter open and closes: Ps 1: God’s glory in the Word (Law); Ps 148: God’s glory in the WORLD (creation). Ps 19 brings these themes together in **ONE**.
- Ps 19 has impacted Romans 1:18-32 and Romans 10:18 (calling for universal praise!).
- Two main divisions :
 - **Vv1-6** — God’s glory in the Skies; Name “God” (1x) (the WORLD book) // General revelation

- **Vv7-14** — God’s glory in Scriptures; Name “LORD”/Yhwh (7x) (the WORD book)
// Special revelation

THESIS — Psalm 19 shows us how God’s revelation is made clear.

See God’s Revelation in...

1. the **VISIBLE WORLD (1-6) *Today***
2. the WRITTEN WORD (7-14) [next time]
3. the INCARNATE WORD (selected Scriptures)

I. THE VISIBLE WORLD (1-6)

- God puts himself, His power, His creative might on DISPLAY for every single person to see. NO HUMAN anywhere has any excuse for failing to recognize God.
- v.1-4a — the heavens show the GLORY OF GOD & then in vv.4b-6 - the example of the SUN >> this is all **general revelation** >> (*God’s revealing himself to all people generally, universally*)
 - This is great: in Ancient Near Eastern hymns (Babylonian/Egyptian), nature is deified and gods are praised, but here, nature is *personified* NOT deified & nature ALL raises the chorus of praise to its Creator, the ONLY Deity--the One True, Living, Exclusive, Creator-God!
- **How is God’s revelation seen in the visible world? The Visible world shows God’s revelation in what ways?**
 - A. God’s revelation is **GOD-GLORIFYING** (v1) - heavens/expanse.
 1. they are declaring and recounting God’s glory — continuous action. All the time, the heavens are continually, constantly, repeatedly, ceaselessly *proclaiming and revealing the Glory of God!*
 - B. God’s revelation is **CONTINUOUS** (v.1-2) — heavens, skies, day to day, night to night)
 - C. God’s revelation is **ABUNDANT** (v2) — it pours forth speech >> like a gushing spring. the heavens are abundant in their exuberant praise of God! They testify of God’s glory!
 - D. God’s revelation is **UNIVERSAL** (v.3-4) >> it’s known everywhere > no speech, language where it’s not heard/seen. >> No spot in all creation is excused. All know there’s a God.
 1. Verse 3: – The point of v.3 is that there is no people group or language on the earth that has not heard the “voice” of general revelation!
 - a) The voice is universal – there is no language spoken by anyone on earth that CANNOT understand this natural revelation.
 - b) Whether it’s Swahili, English, French, Russian, Hebrew, Italian, Chinese, Mandarin, Africans, Portuguese, etc; There is universal understanding that there is a Creator because *all peoples* can observe creation!
 - (1) “*There is no part of humanity that has escaped the proclamation of the heavens about their creator*” (Wilson, 363).
 2. What’s God saying? there is no part of humanity — whatever the language, culture, place, continent, dialect, or cultural history — that has escaped the proclamation of the heavens about their Creator. >> No man has any excuse. None.

- E. Vv.4-6 - Verse 4a: Not only is there no people group on the face of the earth, but *the uttermost extremities of the earth/world has heard, felt, seen, and experienced the general revelation of God!*
- F. David picks **one example**: the SUN [exultant, magnificent, strong, obedient, God-revealing]! ***The greatness of the sun is like two things.*** It’s illustrated in two ways:
1. Like a **BRIDEGROOM** -- radiant, glowing, beaming bright, happy, resolved. The joy of a bridegroom coming from the wedding canopy or bridal chamber, represents the RADIANCE AND BEAMING LIGHT OF THE SUN.
 2. Like a **STRONG MAN** (champion) -- strong, tireless, enduring, always moving forward, vigorous, powerful. The mighty and focused champion rejoicing in his strength represents the POWER of the sun as it seems to move ‘through its circuit’
 - a) It may also refer to *two different situations*:
 - (1) First, It may refer to an athlete ready and rejoicing and eager to run his course.
 - (2) Second, it may be referring to a warrior who, having worked himself up into an energetic frenzy, rushes headlong toward the enemy in a battle. And for the Israelites—a war-like people—this sort of fearless indifference to personal safety and joy of battle was a sign of a *great warrior* (Wilson, 364).
 3. V.6- humanly speaking, the SUN rises in the east, and it travels every day, humanly speaking to set in the west. The SUN pours heat on every creature making its presence felt. All people everywhere feel, benefit from the sun!
- G. v.6b is the key transition: there is “nothing hidden from its heat”. *Someone may object and say: well, what if someone is blind and cannot see the creation of God, are they exempt? And David says NO because they can feel the warmth and heat of the Sun—therefore, they are still without excuse!*
1. **just as** the SUN dominates the daytime sky, **SO TOO** the Law dominates the human life
 2. **just as** the sun can be welcome in giving warmth **SO TOO** does the Word of God give warmth & Light to God’s people.
 3. **just as** the sun can be terrifying in its unrelenting, powerful, scorching heat, **SO TOO** the Law of God can be scorching, testifying and dangerous to unbelievers.
 4. **just as** there is nothing hidden from the sun’s mighty heat, **SO TOO** there’s nothing hidden from God’s living Word.
 5. **just as** there can be NO LIFE without the sun; **SO TOO** there can be NO TRUE SPIRITUAL, ETERNAL LIFE without the revealed Word of God in Scripture.

SO WHY DID GOD CREATE ALL THINGS?

1. TO DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE (PS 136)
2. TO REJOICE IN HIS WORKS (PS 104:31)
3. TO SHOW HIS ATTRIBUTES (ROM 1.20)
4. TO POINT TO REGENERATION: GOD’S RE-CREATION (2 COR 4.6)
5. TO CALL ALL TO WORSHIP HIM (REV 4.11)
6. TO GLORIFY HIMSELF (PS 19.1)***

You’ve marveled at God’s almightiness in the skies! ***Look! Pause! Stop! Ponder! Awe!***

II. THE WRITTEN WORD (7-14) >>> next time

CONCL-

Concluding Illustration

- The Austrian composer of the 18th century, Franz Joseph Haydn, wrote what is called: “THE CREATION” from 1797-1798 and is considered by many to be his masterpiece. It’s an oratorio that celebrates the creation of the world as depicted in Genesis and Psalms. [for orchestra, choir and soloists]
 - Here’s what happened: earlier In the 1790’s, Haydn visited England and there he had the desire to write this piece on THE CREATION (from Gen 1 & Psalms)
- When it was completed, the first performance of *THE CREATION* in Germany was in 1798 and it was a private show — by invitation only. Those invited were political officials, prominent composers and musicians, and some leaders from other countries. The place was SO crowded with people eager to hear this that 30 police were required to keep the order and peace in the area.
- One audience member of the evening was overwhelmed at the beauty of the music & the truth put in lyric form, and he wrote just a few days after:
 - "Already three days have passed since that happy evening, and it still sounds in my ears and heart, and my heart is overwhelmed by many emotions even thinking of it."
- >> that’s what the GLORY OF GOD does. What God reveals Himself in the WORLD, in the WORD, and in the SON >> we respond with joy, with gladness, with deep gratitude!
 - Let us Worship GOD as we see God’s glory revealed in the *visible world.* AMEN.