

## Psalm 19

**Title:** God's World, Word, and Worker

**Author and Date:** David

**Key Verse:** Psalm 19:1, 7, 11

### **Outline**

- A. God's world: his revelation of greatness in the sky (verses 1-6).
- B. God's word: his revelation of guidance in the scripture (verses 7-9).
- C. God's worker: his revelation of grace in the soul (verses 10-14).

### **Notes**

Title: "For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David." See the notes on Psalm 3 and Psalm 4.

Verse 1: "Heavens" and "firmament" are parallel thoughts. These words refer to the immediate sky above us and to outer space beyond our sky (see Gen. 1:1, 6-8, 14-19). God's "glory" (wisdom, power) and "handiwork" (design) can be seen in the physical creation around us (see Psa. 8:3; 148:3-4; 33:6-9; Isa. 40:22-26; and Rom. 1:19-20). Our universe is vast, orderly, beautiful, and unique. God is the great and grand Architect of it all.

Verses 2-3: The psalmist uses personification as he discusses the "speech" and "words" of the heavens. The heavens speak, not with human words (verse 3), but by revealing God's glory in their design and by honoring him their appointed purpose. No human language or common language is heard. The heavens are a silent witness, but a witness none-the-less. "They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them" (NIV). This is truly the "sound of silence". See the KJV translation for an alternate reading and train of thought.

Verse 4: "Line" is a reference to the string or cord of a musical instrument which makes a sound when it is plucked. The first part of verse 4 is quoted by Paul in Romans 10:18 and applied to the availability of the gospel to Israel. The hymn, "The Spacious Firmament" by Joseph Addison, is based upon verses 2-4.

Verse 5: The sun is likened unto a "bridegroom" and "strong man" (an athlete running a race). The psalmist speaks of the sun, not from a scientific perspective, but from the perspective of one looking at it from the earth. The sun appears to be moving as it is "going forth" in its "circuit" around the earth; e.g., "sunrise" and "sunset". Ancient people like the Egyptians viewed the sun as a god, whereas the psalmist viewed the sun correctly, as a creation of God.

Verses 7-9: The psalmist uses *El* (God) in verse 1 where creation is discussed and he uses *Yahweh* (Jehovah or Lord) in verse 7 where law is discussed. For a further description of God's multi-faceted word, see Psalm 119.

Verse 10: For "gold" and "honey", see Psalm 119:72, 103, and 127.

Verses 12-13: The psalmist requests to be cleared from: 1) "hidden *faults*"; i.e., sins that are committed unintentionally, and 2) "presumptuous sins"; i.e., sins that are committed intentionally. For unintentional sins and intentional sins, see Numbers 15:27-36.

Verses 14: For "my rock, and my redeemer", see Psalm 18:2, 31, and 46.

## **Questions**

1. What do the heavens declare and the firmament show about God (verses 1)?
2. What do the heavens and firmament do and not do (verses 2-3)?
3. How far-reaching are the "speech" and "words" of the heavens (verse 4)?
4. What two things is the sun compared to (verse 5)?
5. What far-reaching effect does the sun have (verse 6)?
6. What six synonyms does the psalmist use in place of God's word (verses 7-9)?
7. What six words does the psalmist use to describe God's word (verses 7-9)?
8. What six phrases does the psalmist use to show the effects or benefits of God's word upon mankind (verses 7-9)?

9. How valuable does the psalmist consider God's word (verse 10)?
10. What is the benefit of God's word to mankind (verse 11)?
11. What question does the psalmist ask and what request does he have concerning his sin (verses 12-13)?
12. What request does the psalmist have concerning his words and thoughts (verse 14)?
13. What is the Lord to the psalmist (verse 14)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. There is evidence for a divine Creator and Designer of the universe because the physical world around us declares it (verses 1-2). This evidence is accessible to all mankind (verses 3-6). What does Paul say could be known about God from looking at the physical world (Rom. 1:19-20)?
2. Every effect has a cause. The psalmist is reasoning from effect (the heavens) to cause (God) in verses 1-2. What does the writer of Hebrews say about God (Hebrews 3:4)? What does the writer of Hebrews say about creation (Hebrews 11:1-3)?
3. The scientist studies the book of nature (verses 1-6) while the psychologist studies the book of human nature (verses 11-14). But, these two specialists often ignore the book of scripture (verses 7-10). The more we know about the Bible and obey it, the better we will understand nature and ourselves. What is important to know ahead of all other things that can be known (Jn. 8:32; 14:17; 1 Tim. 4:3; 1 Jn. 2:21; 4:6; 2 Jn. 1, 2, 4)?

4. God's perfect word provides all the necessary truth and guidance to make us complete in God's sight (verses 7-9). What does Paul say about the scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?
  
5. The psalmist highly valued the word of God (verses 10-11). What must our attitude be toward God's word (Job 23:12; Psa. 119:72, 103, 127; Prov. 3:13-15; 8:10-11, 19; 16:16)?
  
6. We need to be like the psalmist and have an attitude of wanting to be cleared and kept back from all sin (verses 12-13). What happens when a Christian sins willfully (Heb. 10:26-31)? What must a Christian do with his sin (Acts 8:22-24; 1 Jn. 1:7-10)?
  
7. The psalmist wanted to speak and think in such a way as to be acceptable to the Lord (verse 14). What must a Christian desire (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5)? What must we let Christ control (2 Cor. 10:5)?