

A Poem about God's World and God's Word

Reflecting on creation and the word of God leads us to praise and honor Him.

Psalm 19



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

AUGUST 8, 2018/AUGUST 12, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: Psalm 19 (NIV), The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. 14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

FIRST THOUGHTS

◦ What's the number one destination for summer travel? The beach of course! What is it that's so appealing about going to the beach? Are you more of a sit on the beach and relax person or a get in the water and have some fun person? What's your favorite beach to go to?

◦ One of the magical things about the beach is the majesty of the ocean. The blue water to the horizon, the endless waves, the sounds, etc. It's a place where it's easy to believe in an endless, majestic God. What is it about the beach that speaks to you of God?



We've been looking at the life of David, the second King of Israel, in the book of 2 Samuel this summer. As you may know, in addition to being a King and Warrior, David was a poet and songwriter. Much of the book of Psalms in the Old Testament was composed by David. These were lyrics that he put to music. While we don't still have the music that went along with them, we do have the lyrics. So today we're going to look at one of David's compositions, Psalm 19.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Psalm 19 is a perfectly balanced psalm of David. The first part (v. 1-6) talks about the works of God (what He has created) and what it shows us about him. The second part (v. 7-14) talks about the Word of God and what He has told us about Himself. It's easy to imagine David being moved by spending time in the fields with the sheep by the beauty and majesty of what God had made. This psalm also shows us that same beauty and majesty is in the word of God. Note how in the first part, the word "God" is used over and over (this is the Hebrew word "El"). But in the second part, David chooses to use the specific name of God ("YAWEH" or "LORD") that He revealed to His people. That points to the general relationship a person can have with "God" through creation, but the very personal relationship we can have with our "LORD" through the Bible.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

> Read Psalm 19:1-6

These verses describe how God reveals Himself to all people in creation.

- Where is someplace you have been impressed with the majesty of God?
- What things can we know about God by looking on his creation?

> Read Psalm 19:7-11

These verses shift the focus from God's World to God's Word.

- ° The Created World can show us some things about God. What things can we know about Him only from the Bible?
- ° How is the Word of God described in these verses?
- ° What are the purposes of God's Word according to these verses? Remember when David wrote this song, he was referring to the Law of Moses (as that was the only Bible he had then). How can laws, commands, and precepts bring us joy?

> Read Psalm 19:12-14

The psalm ends with a reflection and application—David's prayer that his life would be pleasing to the God he has been praising.

- ° Why do you think David's reflection on creation and God's word lead him to seek forgiveness and desire to live for God?
- ° In v. 14, David asks God to accept the words of his mouth and the thoughts of his heart. How can we make these pleasing to God? How does God help us with this? How can reflecting on what God has done and what God has said help us?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Take a moment to reflect on God's creation. In all that He has made, He chose to make you as well. You are His creation and His child. Let your heart echo the closing words of Psalm 19:

"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

UPCOMING LESSONS

- Take some time to read 2 Samuel 22 over the next several days.
- As he nears the end of his life, David prepares this psalm of praise recounting what God had done for him. Take some time this week to write a praise list (or maybe even a psalm) of what God has done in your life.

Thankful – 2 Samuel 22:26-36, 50-51

Disciplined – 2 Samuel 24:10-25

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

13th - Jeremiah 13-15; John 15 | **14th** - Jeremiah 16-17; Psalm 96; John 16 | **15th** - Jeremiah 18-20; Psalm 93; John 17 | **16th**- 2 Kings 24; Jeremiah 22; Psalm 112; John 18 | **17th** - Jeremiah 23, 25; John 19 | **18th** - Jeremiah 26, 35, 36; John 20 | **19th** - Jeremiah 45-47; Psalm 105; John 21