

February 11, 2024

## “God’s Revelation through His World”

### Psalm 19:1-6

**FCF:** Struggles in reading the Bible

**PROPOSITION:** (magnet) All creation is speaking.  
(anchor) We need to tune our hearts to its message.

#### **SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION:**

It’s hard to believe we’re nearly halfway through February already. As of now, over 11% of 2024 is in the books. You know what that means? We’ve had ample time to tank on our New Years resolutions. Research shows that 23% of people quit their resolutions by the end of the first week. And 43% quit by the end of January. And now it’s February 11th. You know what that means? Many of us are struggling with our once-found-now-lost resolve to read our Bibles.

That plan we found, the app we loaded, the guide we bought - it seemed good. But now we’re on fumes. Or flamed out. For the next few weeks, I want to look at the topic of reading the Bible. We’ll get to *how*. But for now, we’ll look at *why* through the lens of an ancient poem.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** **Psalm 19:1-6**

#### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SERMON INTRODUCTION:**

What do we make of nature? The view of ancient man was to worship it – seeing the elements below and stars above as gods to be feared and served. The view of modern man is to study it – to quantify and qualify every part so as to understand and manipulate it. The one saw the gods and the world as one with little distinction. The other sees it all as utterly separated.

The ancient perspective was clearly misguided and led to all sorts of terrible ideas and practices. But the modern perspective is no better. What happens, after all, when you treat the world and people in it as objects? History near and far of the last few decades bears this out.

We need a whole new perspective, one where God is on the center stage – not confused with the stage itself nor pushed back behind the curtain. We need the perspective of the psalmist (**READ Psalm 19:1**). Creation is testifying, directing our attention, giving us a demonstration. Of what? Of who God is and what He has done. Just as with the fine handiwork of any artist.

The wonder is that this artist has also verbally spoken. I hope to get to that in a couple of weeks as we move further through the words of this psalm. But for now, let’s consider this. All creation is speaking. All creation is speaking. And we need to tune our hearts to its message.

But how? What role does the creation play in this grand declaration and proclamation? First, by delivering a continuous message. And then, second, by delivering a universal message.

#### **I. A CONTINUOUS MESSAGE**

The first is in the continuous, ongoing message creation delivers (**READ Psalm 19:2**).

*A) By Day*

1. The sun

David is alluding to the sun. By day, with all its blinding power, casting forth light and heat.

## 2. The effect

And so pouring out speech. The sense is of something irrepressible, like a bubbling spring. In this case, the Middle Eastern skies that tend to be cloud-free, so clear through much of the year.

### B) *By Night*

#### 1. The moon

But this continuous declaration goes out by night as well. Think of the moon night after night – whether quarter, half, or full – hanging aloft, lighting the way, shining down upon the landscape.

#### 2. The stars

Think of the stars and how they testify not to an emptiness to the universe but a fullness. We know this all the more today. There are roughly 100 billion stars in our galaxy. And our telescopes tell us there are between 200 billion and 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe.

The heavens and the sky above, day and night – to see them is to see the glory of God. That is what David is telling us. And, as much as that may mess with our paradigm, we need to hear it. God has a relationship to His creation something like our relationship to our words.

#### *Illustration:*

Which means that we can learn not just about creation but from it as well. And, in fact, if we're going to truly learn anything about creation, we would do really well to learn from it first.

All his life, Jonathan Edwards was captivated by nature. He wrote an essay in 1723, known as the “Spider Letter,” exploring the spider’s ability to “fly.” He noted how one web is anchored to a starting point and then a second is sailing through the air until it fastens on another object. Then the spider releases the first web and retracts the other. Edwards saw in these wonders lessons about God. First, he saw (READ) “*the wisdom of the Creator in providing of the spider,*” and second, “*the exuberant goodness of the Creator, who hath not only provided for all the necessities, but also for the pleasure and recreation of all sorts of creatures, even the insects.*” Do you hear? The wisdom and the goodness of God in the life of a simple spider.

#### *Application:*

A spider is never just a spider. It’s a message. Now what are we to do with a message? We are to receive, embrace, and respond. What might that mean here? In gratitude, we should say, “How good of God to do this!” And, in wonder, “What kind of God would do this?”

It’s never enough for students or professionals to say, when asked how their faith informs their work, “I read my Bible and treat folks around me with kindness.” We must go further. “I see my field not as a means of exploitation but exploration. And I pursue it with the heart of a child, getting to know my Father.” To pursue chemistry, biology, zoology, astronomy, geology, nutrition, physics, or engineering - is to pursue the Creator. That’s what David is getting at here.

All creation is speaking. And we need to tune our hearts to its message.

## II. A UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

This message being continuous. And it being universal as well ([READ Psalm 19:3-4a](#)).

#### *A) Everyone Hears*

##### 1. Basic principle

What is David saying? He begins by stating a basic principle. Voices and words are heard.

##### 2. Principle applied

That's the principle. Then he applies it. Creation has a voice and is relaying words. It speaks by day and by night continuously and goes out to the ends of the earth universally. Meaning that, wherever you find people on the face of the earth – the Bedouins in the deserts, the Eskimos in the arctic, the tribes in the jungle – the heavens are there and are declaring the glory of God.

#### *Illustration:*

Which leads David to this image of the sun ([READ Psalm 19:4b-6](#)). This is no sun worship. This is poetic imagery describing the sun God has made. David alludes first to a wedding. The groom, splendidly arrayed, sets out to the house of his bride to claim her. It is a journey with a radiant and festive mood. Then we have the image of a race, the running of an athlete, moving forward in triumph. And this movement, this heat and light, is felt everywhere.

Think of that next time you see a sunrise or sunset. It's not just a ball of gas generating energy. If that's all we're seeing, we're not seeing. It's far more than that. It's the glory of God!

#### *B) Everyone Knows*

Everyone hears this message of the heavens and the sky above. Which can only mean one thing. Everyone knows. Which is just Paul's point in Romans 1 ([READ Romans 1:18-23](#)).

##### 1. Clarity of what is seen

What is Paul saying here? We can break it down to a couple of things. There is a clarity to what is seen. People see the glory of God in creation but fail to distinguish between it and Him.

##### 2. Tragedy of what is suppressed

Then, secondly, despite the clarity of what is seen, there is a tragedy to what is suppressed. Left to ourselves, there is an enmity between us and God. We don't want to hear the testimony of our waywardness and wickedness. So in our hostility to Him, we try to suppress this. But we can't.

Everyone – every man, woman, and child – everyone knows the reality of the true and living God. Everyone sees what bears witness to His glory ([READ Romans 1:19; Psalm 19:1](#)).

#### *Application:*

Everyone hears. And everyone knows. Think of the implications here. Think of how this should impact our understanding of any resistance we see to the gospel. It is never simply a matter of good arguments, sound presentations, and solid persuasion. There are significant spiritual dynamics at play. And taking God at His word, we have to understand that, ultimately, no one has an excuse for failing to worship Him. No one. Put another way, no matter who we're talking to, no matter their story or background, they do know better. As do we all. All of us.

But that takes me to this. If you're here this morning and know of your resistance to the Lord, this gives you some understanding of what's going on in your own heart. You may not like it. You may disagree with it. But there it is. That's what He's telling you. Somewhere deep within you, you know this. Your conscience convicts you and creation confirms the testimony. You know there is a God and you need Him. And your heart will be restless until it rests in Him.

All creation is speaking. And we need to tune our hearts to this universal message.

### **CONCLUSION:**

(**READ Psalm 19:1**). I've alluded to Jonathan Edwards already. Again, he really did write and reflect a good deal on this subject. It truly captured his heart. As a younger man, he began to realize these things all the more as he walked through his father's field (**READ**):

God's excellency, his wisdom, his purity and love seemed to appear in everything; in the sun, moon and stars; in the clouds, and blue sky; in the grass, flowers, trees; in the water and all nature; which used greatly to fix my mind. I often used to sit and view the moon, for a long time; and so in the daytime, spent much time in viewing the clouds and sky, to behold the sweet glory of God in these things: in the meantime, singing forth with a low voice, my contemplations of the Creator and Redeemer.

That's a beautiful, awe-inspiring statement. It blows up our caricatured misconceptions of him. But it does more. It can stir something down inside us. What if he's right? Could this be true?

This is the Christian story, the biblical account of reality. That is, there's no such thing as just a sunset or seashore, a mountain range or the Mariana Trench, the stars in our galaxy or the wings of a hummingbird, the songs of whales or the howl of a wolf. They are all declarations of who God is. They are all proclamations of His handiwork - both continuous and universal.

That reality will shift your paradigm. As will this. Stay with me here. This same God did not stay far off as a passive observer. He has come down. He has entered the scene. Seeing our plight, the mess we have made, the crisis we've caused, this Psalm 19 God has drawn near.

How? The Old Testament builds towards the event. The New Testament unfolds how it came to be and what it all means (**READ Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3a; John 1:14, 18**). It's "the Grand Miracle." We call it the Incarnation. The result of which means that to see Jesus is to see God in the flesh - the Creator having entered the creation, the Author stepping into the story.

That reality will shift your paradigm. It has life-changing, eternity-shifting implications, impacting what we are to be about, why and how we are to go about it, who we know ourselves to be, and where this is all going. The implications of that are continuous and universal as well.

Again, we'll talk about the rest of Psalm 19 in a couple of weeks. But for now, consider this. We need to tune our hearts to the message of creation. And get to know this Creator.

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