

## **“Who or what best speaks of God?”**

### **Psalm 19 - New Living Translation.**

**“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. 3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. 5** It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. 6 The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

“7 The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. 9 Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are

true; each one is fair. 10 They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. 11 They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

“12 How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don’t let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

“14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

**If someone asked you, “What was the best speech you ever heard?” how would you answer?**

**Some might choose Martin Luther King’s, “I have a dream” speech.**

A few might recall some of Franklin Roosevelt’s fireside chats or a Winston Churchill talk from World War II.

**Many would favor a Billy Graham sermon.**

Though at times in his despair over the holocaust, Elie Wiesel did not speak happily about God, of the speakers Norma and I have heard, we both would choose Wiesel.<sup>1</sup>

**In your opinion, in terms of effective eloquence, who or what speaks best of God?**

**Unfortunately, many folks never think of God, let alone give tribute to Him.**

God is hardly in their vocabulary.

**The technology at their fingertips leaves them proud, comfortable, and secure.**

**They rest soundly with pills, My Pillows and Sleep Number beds.**

They watch king football, and queen basketball on OLED curved screen TVs.

Their vehicles come complete with womblike environments—every convenience at their quick command.

GPS, Alexa, and Seri guide them and answer all their questions.

**Many modern folks feel so satisfied and in control that God seems unnecessary.**

They feel in charge and so intently pursue their happiness, they have become little gods.

**I do not wish anyone to suffer, but a widespread power outage might be the best way for people to be reminded about God.**

**Our car cocoons reinforce our feelings of importance and of being in control.**

But suppose a person comfortably surrounded by an LED auto interior where Seri obeys every wish is confronted by total dark of a failed power grid.

**No traffic lights; no building lights, no artificial illumination.**

**That person steps into complete darkness dominated by stars and moonlight only.**

**How large and important do you feel when you walk outside on one of those nights when stars beam brightly?**

**You instantly realize that you are not the center of the Universe and a lot takes place which you do not and cannot control-ever.**

You are an itsy, teeny creature in a vast space human beings cannot get their heads around.

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<sup>1</sup> See his book entitled *Night*, e.g.

**Of the thousands of stars you see, the nearest is more than 25 trillion miles away.**

Those stars are so far away that the sparkle you see tonight was emitted years ago. No group of scientists can fully explain all the phenomena that occur in the Cosmos.

When asked his view of the Universe, Albert Einstein said:

*I'm not an atheist, and I don't think I can call myself a pantheist. We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books but doesn't know what it is.*

*That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws but only dimly understand*

*these laws. Our limited minds grasp the mysterious force that moves the constellations.”<sup>2</sup>*

**In these paragraphs, Einstein seemed to say: “The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.**

**Einstein probably did not believe in a personal God as you and I do.**

**Yet he did apparently think that a powerful, intelligent force brought the Cosmos into being.**

**Note his statement: “That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God.”**

**Einstein used numerous expressions: ‘superior mind,’ ‘superior reasoning force,’ and ‘mysterious force that moves the constellations.’**

**Let me include the observation of Paul A.M. Dirac, an English physicist, who won a Nobel Prize for his work in quantum mechanics:**

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<sup>2</sup> *Einstein and Religion*, Max Jammer, Princeton University Press, 1999, p 44 as quoted by Anthony Flew, *There is a God*, Harper One, p. 99.

**“God is a mathematician of a very high order and He used advanced mathematics in constructing the universe.”<sup>3</sup>**

**“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.”**

**So here is this self-contained, self-fulfilled person stopped because of a power outage and looking into the immensity of space.**

**From planet earth, space seems quiet.**

In vain, the best hearing aids could be turned to max because no words are spoken.

The stars and planets: **“speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.”**

**This profound speech makes no sound.**

**Do the sun, moon, and stars say anything to you?**

**When you walk outside and look at the stars on a clear night, do you hear them speaking to you—is their message clear?**

**What will it take to stop the madness of our worship of things: sports, money, possessions, power and that self-centered mortal we see in the mirror each morning?**

**What will it take to bring us to our knees before the superior mind, the reasoning eternal force of the Cosmos?**

**Will it take loss of massive power grids or total breakdown of society to bring us to our senses?**

**Many scholars think King David took two old poems and put them together in what we call Psalm 19**

These two ancient poems written in the city of Akkad 100s of years prior to David.

The ruins of Akkad are located S.W. of Baghdad, Iraq.

The people of Akkad were either Sumerians or connected with the Sumerians.

**Why do I bring up all of this “old stuff”? For one, we have a lot in common with the ancient Sumerians.**

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p – 105, 106

## How long has it been since you checked your watch?

You possibly know that the Sumerians were responsible for the way we measure circles and time.

I understand that the Sumerians invented the sexagesimal system.

“Bob, you have sex on the brain!”

Sexagesimal has nothing to do with sex.

The term relates to the number sixty.

It explains why we have sixty seconds in a minute; 60 minutes in an hour.

And 360 degrees in a full circle.

We can thank the Sumerians and maybe some of the Akkadians for these time and position measuring methods.

Archaeologists have discovered numerous old Akkadian writings.

Some think the writer of Psalm 19 borrowed two Akkadian poems and rewrote them.

**The writer of Psalm 19 possibly read some Akkadian poetry.**

But what the Akkadians thought and what Psalm 19 says are different.

The Akkadians worshipped the sun  
**They called their sun-god Shamash.**

## **The Bible forbids sun worship.**

David and other Bible writers taught that God created the sun and other stars.

They warn us against worshipping created things.

That includes bowing to or kissing the ring of any man or woman; it also forbids idolizing iPhones, politicians, preachers, and ball players. We worship God, Creator of the Cosmos including the sun, which is an ordinary star.

## **You know all of this.**

### **We just tend to forget it, don't we?**

Surrounded by human-made things, we neglect to thank, praise, and honor God.

The heavens never stop praising God.

“Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him (God) known.”

**We mentioned those who think there are two separate poems in Psalm 19.**

**Poem #1 reads:**

**“The heavens proclaim God’s glory.”**

**Verse 7 begins the second part:**

**“The instructions of the Lord are perfect reviving the soul.**

**There are not really separate poems.**

**The two parts share a common theme; both God’s creation and his moral laws honor Him.**

One reason people in this country have “come off the rails” relates to their assumption that we can make up moral rules as we go.

**“There are no rules anymore; just the moment.”**

**“My rules are as good as your rules.”**

**Recent statistics prove the folly of a changing morality:**

**Both young and old folks are hooked on drugs and giving up on life because they are becoming increasingly detached from God’s law.**

Psalm 19 tells us that in the same way the Cosmos operates according to predictable, well-established laws, God’s moral laws are strongly fixed

**Psalm 19 isn’t two separate poems.**

**It is one majestic piece of writing. Psalm 19 affirms that the Universe runs according to God’s laws.**

**This psalm teaches us to praise God and live by the unchanging moral laws he established for our well-being.**

**The more we learn about the Universe, the more reason to glorify God’s genius.**

**God’s laws concerning our morality and behavior are perfect, too.**

**Do you read the Scriptures so you will know what God’s principles are?**

**Are you living according to the biblical model Christ gave us?**

**Do you give glory to Him?**

**If you feel discouraged and are losing hope:**

- **Familiarize yourself with God’s laws in Christ;**
- **Begin doing things God’s way.**  
**“The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.”**

**Those of us who lack experience and do not consider ourselves intellectually bright can gain the wisdom we need.**

**“8 The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.”**

**Want courage, peace of mind, and purpose?**

- **Praise God every day.**
- **Fully commit to His way.**

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