

# The Revelation of God (Part I)

## Psalm 19:1-6

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May 21, 2023 a.m.

Introduction: Psalm 19 declares how God has revealed Himself in the skies & in the Scriptures & how He desires to reveal Himself in the soul. These divisions of the Psalm can be described as the Voice of Nature (:1-6), the Word of God (:7-11), & the Response of Man (:12-14). Scroggie points out that in the natural revelation, God's glory is seen in the skies; in the written revelation, God's greatness is seen in the Scriptures; & in the practical revelation, God's grace is seen in the soul. David, who is the author of this Psalm, is known to be not only a shepherd of his sheep but also a student of his Scriptures. Commenting on the 2 books of nature & Scripture, Spurgeon wrote, "He is wisest who reads both the world-book & the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, & feels concerning them, 'My Father wrote them both'." This morning we will consider just the first six verses of this Psalm as we take note of the revelation of God's glory & the declaration to God's greatness. Tonight we will see the revelation of God in His Scriptures.

### I. The revelation of God's glory (:1)

#### A. "The heavens declare..." >

##### 1. Their explanation:

- a. "Heavens" - (1) Watery heavens (clouds, atmosphere), (2) Solar heavens (sun, moon, stars), & (3) Dwelling place of God (II Cor. 12:2, "the third heaven").
- b. "All creation is a revelation of God, but the heavens in their vastness, splendour, order, & mystery are the most impressive reflection of God's greatness & majesty" (Kirkpatrick).

##### 2. Their exclamation:

- a. They "are declaring" (present participle – to speak, tell, show forth, narrate, preach, or proclaim), a continual testimony of God's glory.
- b. They show forth a conscious, intelligent, planning, controlling, & presiding Creator. [Consider the earth's position from the sun; thousands of galaxies, "light-years, etc.]

#### B. "The firmament sheweth..." >

##### 1. Its description:

- a. Literally - "the expanse" – from the verb "to beat out & spread out" – hence, "the open expanse of the heavens, which appeared as a vast canopy or tent about the earth" (cf. Genesis 1:6-8).
- b. It is the expanse as a whole, composed of the heavens.

##### 2. Its display:

- a. It shows forth the work of God's hand ("hand-work"). See Psalm 8:3.
- b. "He who looks up to the firmament & then writes himself down an atheist, brands himself at the same moment as an idiot or a liar" (Spurgeon).  
"An undevout astronomer is mad" (Plumer).

**Summary:** Science & Scripture are complementary, not contradictory. Science is on our side! Creation is like a "word-less book"; it needs no translation.

**Application:** Helen Keller (blind & deaf) was first taught about God by Phillips Brooks. When she understood what he was teaching, she replied, "I always knew there was a God, but I didn't know what His name was." See Romans 1:18-20.

## II. The **declaration** to God's greatness (:2-6)

### A. The silence of this declaration (:2-4a) >

1. Day & night, in regular pattern, continue the story of God's glory revealed through His creation.
2. "Day & night the created universe broadcasts its silent but eloquent symphony to the glory of the Creator" (Ryrie).
3. "*Their voice*" (:3)?? The sun, moon & stars; referred to by some as "traveling preachers" - preaching not to the ear but to the eye ("*no speech nor language*"). This means the message is not articulated but rather pictured (cf. sign language).
4. "*Their line*" (:4a)?? The measure of the expanse (heavens); all mankind is under heaven & therefore in contact with God's creation. See again Romans 1:18-20. Application: The word "*line*" carries the meaning of "legible writing." Then the sense is "that the glory of God is written & imprinted in the heavens, as in an open volume which all man may read" (Calvin).

**Summary:** Yet just as a deaf person who refuses to "listen" can close his eyes or turn away from the one signing, so, too, today do evolutionists "refuse" the message pictured in God's created universe. Illustrate: The Caribbean Center for the Deaf in Jamaica.

**Application:** "God speaks through creation day after day & night after night; His speech 'pours out' silently, abundantly, universally" (Wiersbe).

### B. The strength of this declaration (:4b-6) >

1. The sun as a king (:4b) - He has a tabernacle (pavilion) created by the moon & stars (heavens?).
2. The sun as a bridegroom (:5a) - He is full of joy on his wedding day.
3. The sun as a runner (:5b) - He displays such strength that he shows no signs or effort or fatigue while running. (cf. cross-country or marathon runner)
4. The sun as the Son (:6) - The sun with its powerful rays & penetrating heat typifies the Son of God - nothing is hid from Him or escapes His power. "Even the hardest heart may be melted by it; even the foulest may be purified" (Hare, by Spurgeon). See Malachi 4:2, "...*the Sun of righteousness*..."

**Summary:** "Jesus, like a sun, dwells in the midst of revelation, tabernacling among men in all His brightness; rejoicing, as the Bridegroom of His Church, to reveal Himself to men; & like a champion, to win unto Himself renown. He makes a circuit of mercy, blessing the remotest corners of the earth; & there are no seeking souls, however degraded & depraved, who shall be denied the comfortable warmth & benediction of His love..." (Spurgeon).

**Conclusion:** What can we learn from these opening verses of Psalm 19? Adrian Rogers entitles them: "The convincing power of the Word in the heavens." We have seen that God's glory is revealed & that God's greatness is declared by His creation. As we ponder the splendor & majesty of this vast creation, we can only ask with David, "*When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon & the stars, which Thou has ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that Thou visiteth him?*" (Psalm 8:3-4). The wonder of it all, the song writer (hymn study) declares, "is that God loves me." Although we are unable to fully explain how the Great Creator became our Savior, we can by faith experience such glorious salvation. Is that your testimony here this morning? Is the Great Creator of the universe your personal Lord & Savior? Have you felt the penetrating rays of God's love & grace, & responded to His revelation? As believers, might we continue to marvel at the glory of God revealed in the skies (His creation) while we also continue to meditate upon the grace of God He has revealed to our soul (His salvation).