

Psalm 019 - Creation; The Mazzaroth

Psalm 19

[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]

God's Revelation in the Heavens (General Revelation, Cf. Rom 1:18-20)

1 The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

1 The heavens are declaring the glory of God, and their expanse shows the work of his hands.

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

2 Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they reveal knowledge.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

3 There is no speech nor are there words— their voice is not heard—

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Everyone is without excuse!

4 Their line has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

4 yet their message goes out into all the world, and their words to the ends of the earth. He has set up a tent for the sun in the heavens,

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

- Verses 3-4 are quoted by Paul as the reason Israel had no excuse for the rejection of the Gospel (Rom 10:16-18)

Rom 1:20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world **are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse**.

5 Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices like a strong person to run his course.

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

5 which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, or like a champion who rejoices at the beginning of a race.

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

6 Its circuit is from one end of the sky to the other, and nothing is hidden from its heat.

6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

- The Milky Way is a typical spiral galaxy of ~400 billion stars, with a central bulge and extended disk

— Diameter is about 100,000 light years; 28,000 light years from the Galactic Center

Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants and certain other organisms use the energy of light to convert carbon dioxide and water into the simple sugar, glucose. All life derives from Light (1st quote...).

Photosynthesis means "To build with light": plants are sugar factories, producing millions of new glucose molecules/second. Most plants produce more glucose than they use and store it as starch and other carbohydrates in roots, stems, and leaves. Each year, photosynthesizing organisms produce about 170 billion metric tons of extra carbohydrates, about 30 metric tons for every person on earth.

Brilliant autumn colors are due to the presence of accessory leaf pigments that normally assist the plant in photosynthesis by capturing specific wavelengths of sunlight. These pigments, called carotenoids, become visible when the leaf dies in the fall.

Something More

Following the fall of man, creation has been subjected to futility and bondage (Gen 3:17-19; Rom 8:20-22). To reveal Himself more clearly, the Creator has given us His Word. His Word is pure (Ps 119:140; Prov 30:5). God puts His Word above His Name! (Ps 138:2). When

speaking of creation, David uses Elohim. But of His personal revelation, His Word, 7x David uses the covenant name, YHWH.

God's Revelation in the Law (Special Revelation)

7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; **The testimony of the LORD is sure**, making wise the simple.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

7 The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring life. The testimony of the LORD is steadfast, making foolish people wise.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

– "The Law" - the *Torah* of the Lord is perfect (*Torah* = instruction, teaching)

— It is complete, flawless: it never needs revision

– "...The testimony of the LORD is sure" - judgment is coming. The commandments reveal that.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment** of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

8 The precepts of the LORD are upright, making the heart rejoice. The commandment of the LORD is pure, giving light to the eyes.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

– "The precepts" - detailed instructions for daily life

— The NT epistles repeat 9 of the 10 commandments (omitting 4th), and give application (Eph 4:20-32)

– "...The commandment" - that which is appointed; warnings of life and death (Deut 30:15-20)

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; **The judgments** of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, standing forever. The judgments of the LORD are true; they are altogether righteous.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

— “The fear of the LORD” – to teach “fear” is to teach His Word (Ps 34:11; Deut 4:9-10)

— “...The judgments” – ordinances, verdicts. We need to understand His righteousness, and our need for His grace.

— To know the warning and not heed it is sin (James 4:17)

Rom 7:12-14:

12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold; Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

10 They are more desirable than gold, even much fine gold. They are sweeter than honey, even the drippings from a honeycomb.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, Your servant is warned by them; In keeping them there is great reward.

11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.

11 Moreover your servant is warned by them; and there is great reward in keeping them.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

God’s Laws, while impossible to keep in their entirety, are the standard for behavior that He requires of us. Neither arbitrary nor oppressive, they are perfect as He is perfect, and making them part of your life is the sure path to prosperity and success (Joshua 1:8). Even people who don’t believe in the Creator who ordained them are blessed by incorporating His laws into their lifestyle.

12 Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*.

12 Who can discern *his* errors? Acquit me of hidden *faults*.

12 Who can detect his own mistake? Cleanse me from hidden sin.

12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

13 Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be innocent, And I will be blameless of **great wrongdoing**.

13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

13 Preserve your servant from arrogant people; do not let them rule over me. Then I will be upright and acquitted of great wickedness.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

- "...great wrongdoing" - the rejection of the remedy God has provided: Jesus Christ
- Knowing (creation, His Word, et al) is not enough: we must have a relationship with Him
- Sinners were guilty even though they were ignorant of what they had done (Lev 5:17)
- The OT made provision for sins of ignorance (Lev 4; Num 15:22-29); however, there was no atonement for presumptuous sins (Num 15:30-36; Deut 17:12-13)

But even the best of us falls pitifully short of achieving the standards God's law sets forth. Our behavior is so contaminated by our sin nature we don't even realize the extent to which we violate them. So David's prayer was not just for God's help in preventing him from consciously sinning, but also for forgiveness for the sins he wasn't even aware of committing.

In OT times, the evening and morning burnt offerings temporarily set aside the unintentional sins of the nation. From the time of the Exodus to the coming of the Messiah these offerings were part of their daily lives. The evening offering was kept burning all night to atone for the sins they committed during the night and the morning offering covered them all through the day. Two lambs gave their life every day to show the people the extent to which sin had permeated their lives, literally causing them to violate God's laws day and night.

As the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) Jesus replaced these twice daily burnt offerings with His once-for-all-time sacrifice (Heb 10:11-14). And it covered conscious as well as unconscious sin. Since He has already paid the penalty due us, we need only confess to be forgiven. Some dispute this, arguing that our original confession should be sufficient for life. However John the Apostle reminded us that if we think we're without sin we're liars, fooling ourselves. But if we confess our sins, as David did, including even those that are so much a part of our behavior that we're not even aware of them, God Who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-10). Our original confession saved us forever, but maintaining an intimate relationship with God in the here and now requires confession whenever we sin.

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer.

God, Who judges the motives of our heart knows the difference between the sincere confession of a humble and contrite sinner and the mindless mouthing of words we've learned to say without feeling. David closed his prayer with the hope that God would count him sincere as he offered his confession, and judge his motives favorably. Good advice for us too.

Today, when there's so much emphasis on self, it's easy to forget that we're created beings who've been given incredible talent and ability to use as we see fit, and a guide to living that will assure success beyond our wildest imagination. Beginning each day by declaring the glory of our Creator, acknowledging and confessing our sins, and protecting our relationship with the One who is the author of all our victories is a great antidote for the self-centeredness that can so easily overtake us.