

# "THE BOOK OF PSALMS"

## Psalm 19 - God's Two Books July 12, 2006

### OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS PSALM

- 1) To note two ways God has made Himself known to mankind
- 2) To be impressed with the value of God's revealed Will, i.e., the Word of God
- 3) To be reminded of the need for sanctification, and not just forgiveness

### SUMMARY

This well-known psalm of David might be appropriately titled "**God's Two Books**", for in it we are told how God has expressed Himself in two different ways.

Through the **book of creation**, the glory and handiwork of God are made known as one observes the heavens and firmament. Day and night "speaks" to the whole world if people will just listen (cf. **Ro 1:20**). As an illustration of the pervasive nature of this revelation, the sun passes through the heavens from one end to the other, like a joyful bridegroom or a strong runner. There is no place hidden from its heat(**1-6**).

While one might learn of God's power and the fact of His deity through nature, we learn of His Will for man only through His **book of revelation**, i.e., the Word of God. Using different synonyms for God's Word (law, testimony, statutes, etc.), David extols its virtue and impact upon the soul and well-being of man. He praises its value as worth more than much gold, and sweeter than honey (**7-11**).

The psalm ends with a prayer that is a proper response of one who has been influenced by both "books". Acknowledging the challenge of knowing one's own secret sins (cf. **Psa 40:12; Lev 5:15-17**), and the danger of sinning presumptuously (cf. **Num 15:30-31; Deu 17:12-13**), David prays for cleansing and help that he might be blameless and innocent. But he desires more than just forgiveness, David prays that his future words and thoughts will always be acceptable in the sight of the Lord, the source of his strength and redemption (**12-14**).

### OUTLINE

#### **I. THE GLORY OF GOD IN CREATION (19:1-6)**

##### **A. DECLARED BY THE SKIES (1-4a)**

1. The heavens declare God's glory
2. The firmaments shows His handwork
3. The days and nights speak of His knowledge
  - a. Such speech is universal
  - b. Its distribution is worldwide

##### **B. DEMONSTRATED BY THE SUN (4b-6)**

1. The skies are like a tabernacle for the sun
2. The sun passes through the skies
  - a. Like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber
  - b. Like a strong man rejoices in anticipation of his race
3. The effect of the sun is universal
  - a. From one end of heaven to the other

- b. Nothing is hidden from its heat

## **II. THE GIFT OF GOD IN REVELATION (19:7-11)**

### **A. THE VIRTUE OF GOD'S WORD (7-9)**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul
2. The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple
3. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart
4. The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes
5. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever
6. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous forever

### **B. THE VALUE OF GOD'S WORD (10-11)**

1. More desirable than much fine gold
2. Sweeter than honey and the honeycomb
3. By them God's servant is warned
4. Keeping them has great reward

## **III. THE GRACE OF GOD IN SANCTIFICATION (19:12-14)**

### **A. A PRAYER FOR PURIFICATION (12)**

1. The difficulty of understanding (knowing) one's errors
2. Plea for cleansing from secret faults (sins of which one is not aware)

### **B. A PRAYER FOR PREVENTION (13)**

1. Plea to be kept from the domination of presumptuous sins (sins of which one is aware)
2. Then one shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression

### **C. A PRAYER FOR PERFECTION (14)**

1. That the words of his mouth and the meditation of his heart be acceptable in His sight
2. Addressed to the Lord, the source of his strength and his redemption

## **REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE PSALM**

**1) What are the main points of this psalm?**

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**2) Who is the author of this psalm?**

**3) What is the character or style of this psalm?**

**4) What declares God's glory, and shows His handiwork?**

**5) What speaks knowledge about God's glory?**

**6) Where is this knowledge of God's glory heard?**

**7) What provides an illustration of the pervasive reach of God's glory?**

**8) What six synonyms are used for the Word of God?**

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**9) What six attributes and benefits describe the Word of God?**

**10) How does David compare the value of God's Word?**

**11) What two things are true of the words of God?**

**12) What concern does David have regarding "secret faults"?**

**13) For what does he pray concerning "presumptuous sins"?**

**14) What is David's prayer as he closes the psalm?**

**15) How does David view God?**