

\* The Heights Baptist Church \*  
\* Topic: God's Two Books \* Psalm 19 \* 7/20/2025 \*

MAIN POINT

God reveals Himself both through nature and through the Scriptures so that we can know Him better.

INTRODUCTION

**Share a time when you felt a sense of awe while experiencing nature.**

**Did this sense of awe move you to worship God?**

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the sky and they will tell you; or speak to the earth and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” Job 12:7-9*

Psalm 19 describes two ways that God reveals Himself to mankind: through nature and through Scripture. These two revelations are not equal. Nature can be described as God's “general revelation” about himself, while the Scriptures are God's “special revelation” about himself. Psalm 19 is a song of praise that illustrates how we might grow in faith in God and in awe of God as we study His “two revelations.”

UNDERSTANDING

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 19:1-6

**What do the heavens declare about God (verse 1)?**

**How often do the heavens declare this message (verse 2)?**

**How far does creation's message about God reach, and to whom does it reach (verses 3-4)?**

**In what ways does nature point us to the existence of and glory of the Creator?**

The word “heavens” in verse 1 refers to the sky and all that we see in it—the sun, the moon, and the stars. David speaks as if the heavens are constantly speaking to us. Of course, it is not the heavens themselves that are speaking, but God. God is communicating His character to us through what He has made. David tells us “the heavens declare the glory of God” and “the skies proclaim the work of his hands (verse 1). This tells us that creation testifies that God is glorious and transcendent to his creation.

**Creation tells us about God's glory and his dominion over creation. But as you experience nature, what can it tell you about His nearness to his creation as well?**

**In what ways have you experienced closeness with God while admiring His creation?**

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ROMANS 1:18-22

**How does God's creation make “what can be known about God” plain to people?**

**What attributes of God does Paul say can be clearly seen from nature? Why is that important?**

Paul says that God's “eternal power” and “divine nature” can clearly be seen in creation. This is very similar to Psalm 19:1-2 where the heavens declare God's glory and greatness. In other words, Paul is echoing David in saying that God is the supreme creator and the one to whom we must give account.

**Even though God’s glory is clearly seen in nature, why do people still deny His existence?**

Paul says people deny God because they “suppress the truth by their unrighteousness.” In other words, it’s not just that they look at the created world and don’t see enough evidence of a Creator. Paul, like David, says the evidence of God’s eternal power and divine nature are stamped all over the creation. There is no denying that the universe is God’s handiwork. True science has demonstrated that a universe cannot create itself out of nothing, and life cannot arise from non-living material. The reason people deny God is not because of a lack of evidence but because they don’t want to submit to God’s authority. They want to live for themselves, so they turn their back on God and set out to live life their way.

**Assume an unrepentant person at the Great White Throne judgement (Rev. 20:11-15) claims they didn’t believe in God because God didn’t provide enough evidence for His existence. Based on these verses in Romans, how well would this excuse fly with God?**

The truth of God was plain to them. They chose to suppress the truth by their wickedness. Guilty as charged.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 19:7-11

**What words are used to describe God’s word in these verses?**

Perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, firm, righteous, precious, and sweet.

**Why are these such a good description of God’s word?**

Various answers can be given.

**How does God’s word benefit us according to these verses?**

God’s word refreshes the soul, makes the simple wise, gives joy to the heart, gives light to the eyes, warns God’s servants, and rewards those who keep them.

**What are some ways that God’s word does this for us?**

The benefits that David lists in these verses that come from studying the Word of God are tremendous. Paul told Timothy that “every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Both Paul and David speak of the Word of God as a sufficient source of wisdom, guidance, and truth. Nature is a wonderful testimony of the glory of God, but Scripture is a clearer and deeper revelation of who God is and how He wants us to live.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 19:12-14

**What three things does David ask God to do in these verses?**

Forgive my hidden faults, keep me from willful sins, that they may not rule over me. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in God’s sight.

**Why do you think David transitioned from praising God for revealing Himself in nature and praising God for revealing Himself in His word to a time of confession and a request for God’s help in his battle against sin?**

The lavish and varied ways David speaks of God’s creation and God’s word are astounding. This tells us something very important about God—He is gracious and good, and his eternal power and divine nature

can be clearly seen in creation. But God is also holy and the righteous judge, so nature actually makes us guilty before God for denying Him in our sin (Rom. 1:18-22). But the good news is that God chose to reveal Himself more fully to us in the Bible. We are stubborn and rebellious creatures, but God has given us an invaluable gift in the Bible—it reveals clearly to us both who God is and how He would have us live. Furthermore, at the very center of the Bible is the gospel—the good news about Jesus that tells us God saves us by grace and makes us able to obey Him from the heart.

**What difference do you see between our hidden faults and our willful sins?**

We have become so comfortable with sin that sometimes we aren't even aware we are committing them. On the other hand, willful sins are ones we deliberately choose to do.

APPLICATION

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ 2 TIMOTHY 3: 16-17, HEBREWS 4:12, AND JEREMIAH 15:16

**What are some of the benefits there are to spending time in God's word?**

**What specific practices can we put in place to ensure we are regularly investing quality time in God's word?**

Reading the Bible daily, hearing it (such as while commuting to and from work), studying it both alone and with other Christians, memorizing it, and meditating on it.

PRAYER

Praise God for His two "books." Thank God for the beauty of his creation, and its constant witness to the facts that God exists, and God is glorious. Thank Him that creation's witness goes out into all the earth. Thank God for the gift of the Bible, in which God so clearly reveals himself to us. Ask God to help us to remember to pause to listen to the constant witness of His creation and to invest time in His living, active Word to help us get to know him better and to grow us in our faith, awe, and obedience to Him.

## COMMENTARY

### PSALM 19

19:1. Although the heavens can refer to God's dwelling place, here it is clarified by sky, which is what can be seen from the perspective of those who live on the earth. The "sky" is the same Hebrew word as the expanse that separated water from water in Gen 1:6-8. Creation is sometimes personified as a witness to God's work among His people, particularly in the covenant relationship He has with them (Dt 4:26; 30:19; Isa 1:2). In this context one specific part of creation is personified as declaring and proclaiming a message. The parallelism between the glory of God and the work of His hands indicates that the objects of creation are demonstrations (or evidence) of God's glory (50:6; 89:5-8; 97:6; Rm 1:19-20).

19:2-3. Pour out is literally "gush" or "bubble up." This phrase is most often used for springs or fountains of water. The significance of the term here seems to be that speech never ceases. The concept is intensified by the doubling of the terms day and night. The message goes out all the time without ceasing. The paradox is that there is speech in verse 2, but there is no speech in verse 3. Although the same Hebrew term ('omer) appears in both verses, it is used differently. In the first instance it is equivalent to the message in verse 1; in the second instance it means "words." Therefore, it is a message with clearly defined content, but it is not communicated with the words of human language.

19:4-6. While verse 2 says that the message comes at all times, this verse adds that it also comes to all places. The word for "world" (Hb tevel) is not the usual word for earth (as in the first line), but it denotes dry land that is capable of sustaining life (9:8; 24:1)—in other words, the inhabited world. No one can escape the message either in time or in space, and everyone is accountable for the message (Rm 1:20). The focus turns from the more general heavens to the most obvious and spectacular object in them: the sun. It is also personified and compared to a groom and an athlete. These images are used together to convey the idea of youthful strength, a concept that is elsewhere associated with the sun, especially when it rises (Jdg 5:31). The fact that nothing is hidden from the sun reinforces the idea that the message of God's glory is as obvious as the most visible and powerful object in God's creation.

19:7-9. The shift of subject between verses 1-6 and verses 7-14 seems abrupt. However, the common element in both cases is God's revelation of Himself and His purposes to mankind. In the first part of the psalm, it is God's creation (general revelation), whereas in the second part, it is the words that God specifically communicated to His people (special revelation). Perfect is a term that is often used in relation to sacrifices that are acceptable to God because they are "unblemished" and "without defect" (Lv 1:3,10), but it can also refer to the perfect work of God (Dt 32:4). Renewing one's life means the restoration of strength or vitality (1 Ki 17:22; Lam 1:11). Making the eyes light up seems like an unusual idiom, but it makes a connection between light and truth, or more specifically knowledge and understanding of the truth (119:105,130; Pr 6:23). The fear of the Lord is the only subject in this list that involves human response to God's instruction rather than a synonym for it. The concept involves obedience to God with an attitude of reverence and awe. Its inclusion further demonstrates the relationship between fearing Yahweh and the knowledge and understanding of His truth (Pr 1:7; 9:10).

19:10-11. Gold and honey were valuable commodities in the ancient world, but God's words are even more valuable (119:103,127). The warning and reward are both positive benefits of knowing God's instruction because they keep God's servants from straying off the path of righteousness and provide them with blessings (119:35; Pro 4:18).

19:12-13. Certain sins can be unintentional, and we may not even be aware we committed them. The question is rhetorical and assumes a negative answer. For this reason, continual cleansing is required for these sins. Choosing to willfully live in sin is different in that this leads to being "cut off" from God (Num 15:30-31).

19:14. The final plea is that the psalmist's speech and thinking reflect what is acceptable to God. The language of sacrifice is used to show that life should be lived as a sacrifice to God (Rm 12:1).