

“Psalms: Week 3”

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 -MICHAEL BOWERS



Summary - “Psalms: Praise and Worship”

We continue this week in our fourteen week study of the book of Psalms. When we read large sections of the Psalms, as we have done in the past few weeks, we see a range of emotions and life situations that are taking place within these writings. As we have discussed, the Psalms portray emotions such as love, joy, peace, anger, fear, anxiousness, deep hurt, incredible praise, thanksgiving, doubt, and lament to name a few. This week, as we dive into Psalm 19, we will see a Psalm that brings all of these emotions together underneath the majesty, sovereignty, all knowing power, and complete and total control of God as Creator of all things. We will see that He has revealed Himself to us in what He has created, but more importantly through His law, and ultimately through His Son Jesus Christ and the truth and wisdom of His word. We know from the range of emotions, challenges, sins, and hardships that take place throughout the Psalms, that we are in desperate need of a savior and a redeemer. What is incredible is that the God of creation has not only given us that Savior and Redeemer, but has told us all we need to know about Him, not only through His creation, but more importantly through His word.

Scripture - Psalm 19 - “The Law of the Lord is Perfect”

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 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.

Key Apps, Websites, and Online Tools for Further Study

- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
- <https://biblehub.com/>
- <https://www.youversion.com/>
- <https://www.bibleref.com/>
- <https://bible.org/>
- <https://netbible.org/>
- <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/>
- <https://www.gty.org/>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/>
- <https://carm.org/>
- <https://dwellapp.io/>

Further Scripture Study

Psalms 19 ; Matthew 5:45; John 1:14-18; Romans 1:19-21; Hebrews 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;

As you study the scripture verses provided for this week, study for right context and right questions...

Right Context:

- The verse itself and key word(s) that stand out in the verse (meanings)
- The verses around the verse, the section of scripture, the chapter, the book, old/new testament, and relation to the rest of scripture
- Author and Date (Who wrote the book and when?)
- Audience (Who is the book written to? Main characters in the story and/or text?)
- Main points and overall purpose of the book
- Historical background, cultural significance, setting, people, rulers, etc.
- Scripture references; let scripture interpret scripture as much as possible

Right Questions:

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage mean to its original audience?
- What is this passage teaching me about God?
- What does this passage tell us about man?
- What does this passage demand of me? (Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? How is this applicable to me?)
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (What actions must I take in response to this passage?)
- What does this passage prompt me to pray? (For God, for others, for my community, for family, etc.)

Key Thoughts

In Psalm 13, we laid the foundational element for our study of Psalms: Honesty is the foundation of intimacy. Psalm 19 will draw us deeper into examining an intimate relationship with God and our relationship with the word of God. Through Psalm 19 we see: God is not hidden. God wants us to know Him.

We see even from general revelation (God revealing a general sense of himself through nature) that God wants us to know Him. God is not hiding from mankind. God is not playing hide and seek from us. God is not peaking around the corner, hoping, by some random chance, we will see Him. God wakes up the world every morning through miracles and awe-inspiring moments. The sun, the moon, and the stars declare God's power and majesty. God is saying, look at my power on display every moment of every day. (Psalm 19:1-4)

As Warren Wiersbe wrote, "Nature preaches a thousand sermons a day to the human heart."

Thank God for His creativity and the varied creation, and then realize that His most prized creation, mankind, is us. We are more complex in His creation than anything else we will see. This should lead us to know God. God is not hiding. God desires an honest, intimate relationship with us.

God's creation speaks to all. The creation of God speaks of His majesty and power. (Psalm 19:4-6 & Romans 1:19-21)

"Is believing in a general sense of God enough to save us?" No. We need something more than general revelation. This is why we need Scripture and the specific depiction of salvation given to us.

Telescope - Vs. 1-6 are as if you are looking through a telescope and are amazed by the views it brings you. You can see God's creation and his power and might. In vs. 1-6, where creation speaks about God, the Hebrew word, *el*, is a general term for God. (Psalm 19:1-6)

Microscope - Vs. 7-14 - there is an intense examination of the significance of God's word in your life and your salvation. But when we conclude this chapter, we will see that the microscope can be used on God's word, and it will stand any test, but by the end, the Psalmist will call upon us to examine our hearts, souls, and minds. Verses 7-14, speak of LORD, the Hebrew word, YHWH. It is a holy name, a sacred name, but one that depicts a personal and mighty God. David will declare the importance of God's word to our relationship with God. (Psalm 19:7-14)

Key Thoughts

Creation (nature) gives a general revelation of God, but Scripture reveals our hope and salvation path, called specific, unique, or supernatural revelation. Specific (Supernatural) Revelation: The Lord reveals a saving relationship with himself through the Bible.

1. God's word is perfect and strengthens (vs. 7a) - When we make it a part of our lives, God's perfect word refreshes and revives our souls. If we view God's word as a restriction, we leave little room for it to revive and breathe life into us. This means we must come to God's word, trusting and believing that what it teaches and directs aligns us with the heart of God and His glory.
2. God's word is sure and gives wisdom. (vs. 7b) - Making wise the simple, means to make the inexperienced wise. God's word can move us from naive to knowledgeable, from shifting in our stances to deepening our truths to stand upon.
3. God's word is right and brings joy. (vs. 8a) - When we follow it and pursue it, it brings us joy.
4. God's word is pure and provides direction. (vs. 8b)
5. God's word is clean and endures forever. (vs. 9a)
6. God's word is true and righteous together. (vs. 9b)
7. God's word is valuable and priceless. (vs. 10a)

"Our lives are one perpetual treasure hunt. You and I seek. We pour our heart and spirit, tears and sweat, energy and fiery will into acquiring those things we covet, whatever that may be. This is true of everyone." Jon Collins-Black

We are all on a hunt, and while the treasures vary, the search is real for each of us. We are on a quest for what this world offers, but God's word and how it guides us is more valuable than gold or silver, cars or homes, awards or accolades, likes or views - why? Because all of those fade, but God's word does not. (See also Psalm 16:16)

8. God's word is delicious and sweet. (vs. 10b)
9. God's word is helpful and rewarding. (vs. 11) - "God's word warns us about sin; it alarms us. It instructs us on how to live and not live, how to walk and not walk, and how to find joy and avoid sorrow." ~Exalting Jesus in Psalms by J. Josh Smith and Daniel L. Akin

Key Thoughts

10. God's word is instructive and cleansing. (vs. 12) - These might be sins we commit in offense to another person that we do not even recognize that might be unintentional or inadvertent. Oftentimes, others recognize sinful behavior in our lives before we see it in ourselves. We need the enlightenment of God's word to reveal it.

11. God's word is protective and liberating. (vs. 13) - Presumptuous sins - willful sin. This would be examining God's word for direction and then choosing the path of sin and disobedience. When we don't prioritize our honest relationship with God, that creates intimacy, then we are not in tune with His leading and we are no longer listening.

12. God's word is transforming and saving. (vs. 14)- Tune my heart to yours each day.

God's word is sufficient! God's word is enough to change our lives, to give us wisdom, to lift our hearts, and to teach us the truth. With this our prayer should be, "Teach me your Word, O LORD, and enlarge my understanding so I may know more about You and Your TRUTH." God is not hidden. God wants us to know Him. Allow God's word to direct, teach, and lead you to a saving relationship with Him.

Reflect & Respond

What are some things in God's general revelation (through nature) that stand out to you? What in His creation grabs your attention and causes you to take notice and believe that there must be a God?

We see from 19:1-6 that nature itself (that which is created) is directed by and responds to its creator God. This should convince us very quickly that nothing in nature should ever be the focus of our worship, but that God alone holds that place in our hearts. Is there anything in creation that you have placed above God as the center of your worship?

Do you believe that general revelation is enough to bring about salvation? What about those who only have general revelation and have never had the chance to hear the Gospel message? (see Psalm 14:3; John 3:18 & 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:10-12 and 21-23 for guidance)

Treasure hunter Jack Collins-Black once said, "Our lives are one perpetual treasure hunt. You and I seek. We pour our heart and spirit, tears and sweat, energy and fiery will into acquiring those things we covet, whatever that may be. This is true of everyone." Do you see God's word for the treasure that it is? Are you pouring your heart, spirit, tears, sweat, energy and fiery will to acquire it? What would this look like for you?

What specific verse/es from Psalm 19 are impacting you the most? Which ones bring the most conviction? Which ones give you the most hope?