

Psalm 19:-

This Psalm emphasises the fact that the created universe(s) and the written Word (Law) of God are in full agreement. It consists of two distinct parts. Verses 1 – 6 pointing to and describing the created universe use the word ‘God’ (‘El’) when referring to the Creator – as in Genesis chapter 1. The second part speaking about the relationship between the Creator and mankind uses the word ‘Lord’ (‘Yahweh’). This has the effect of emphasising the personal relationship between the Lord God and humanity beginning in Genesis chapters 2 – 3.

Psalm 19, verses 1 – 6:-

The theme of these verses is used by Paul in his introduction to his Epistle to the Romans, see chapter 1, verses 18 – 21. Looking up at the sky on a clear starlit night should remind us of the vastness of the material universe. Modern theories about its beginnings leave us with more questions than answers! Without spoken words creation points humanity to the power, might, majesty and glory of its Creator.

Verse 4 is quoted in Romans chapter 10, verse 18 where Paul insists that the created universe should speak to the hearts and minds of its observers. The more we know of the awesome extent of creation, the more we should recognise the glory and majesty of the Lord God of Hosts.

In verses 5 – 6 the sun is used as an example of strength and power. This would be more apparent in the semi-arid parts of Israel. Note that the Psalmist regards the sun as an agent of God revealing His glory. Not the sun as a god in its own right.

Verses 7 – 10:-

Describes the message of the Torah – the Law of the Lord. The psalmist uses six words to describe the Law. It is ‘Perfect’: ‘Sure’: ‘Right’: ‘Pure’: ‘Clean’ and ‘True’. When they are allowed to work effectively in the heart and mind of man they are a delight.

Verses 11 – 13:-

These verses give the personal application - “*Cleanse thou me from my secret faults.*” The moral teaching of God serves as a warning and should be a constant reminder that “*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Romans chapter 3, verse 23. Again this psalm which reveals the glory of God should point us to the way of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, read Romans chapter 3, verses 21 – 26.

Verse 14:-

The psalm closes with a cry from the heart of the worshipper, acknowledging God as Lord and Redeemer.

1) *Praise, O praise our God and King;
hymns of adoration sing;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

2) *Praise him that he made the sun
day by day his course to run;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure;*

3) *and the silver moon by night,
shining with her gentle light;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

4) *Praise him that he gave the rain
to mature the swelling grain;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure;*

5) *and hath bid the fruitful field
crops of precious increase yield;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

6) *Praise him for our harvest-store,
he hath filled the garner-floor;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

7) *And for richer food than this,
pledge of everlasting bliss;
for his mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.*

8) *Glory to our bounteous King;
glory let creation sing;
glory to the Father, Son,
and blest Spirit, Three in One.*

John Milton 1645 (adapted H.W.Baker 1861)