

How to Revive Your Soul

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August 22, 2010

Psalm 19

INTRODUCTION

If I say “The law of the LORD revives the soul”, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

**WE ONLY SEE GOD’S LAWS AS WONDERFUL WHEN WE SEE
GOD AS OUR TREASURE!**

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. **Matthew 13:44***

BACKGROUND

The book of Psalm cannot be divided up in a logical order or manner for study in a sequential sense. Although the Hebrew Bible does have them divided into five different books, there is no apparent reason except to mirror the Torah.

They are simply a collection of hymns and poetry focused on the sanctity of God and worship in the temple. Many are written by King David, though not all.

Our text, Psalm 19 was written by David and as we will see soon is a reflection of worship that David is personally experiencing in his ongoing relationship with God. This Psalm is a hymn and is regarded as one of the finest pieces of poetic literature ever written. And is fully meant for public worship.

To show this let me draw your attention to Paul's public use of the Psalm in **Romans 10:17-18** quoting v.4.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for 'Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.'

Psalm 19 can be divided into three segments or parts for our study:

1. A **Proclamation** of Praise (vs.1-6)
2. A **Revelation/Reflection** of God's Wisdom (vs. 7-11)
3. A **Response** to his Precepts (vs. 12-14)

I. A PROCLAMATION OF PRAISE

1. Through the wonder of the Heavens.

Verse 1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

David is using the greatness of God to show that all people can see God if they look up!

This verse is written in what is called a chiasmic structure/pattern. It refers to the order of the topic matter in the literature. And it cannot be rightfully translated into English.

The literature structure is divided into topic patterns and would resemble a pattern on ABC-CBA.

For those of who write a lot for a living we call it in modern writing classes the principle of **Primacy and Recency**.

Direct Hebrew:

“The heavens declare the glory of God, the handiwork of his hands proclaim the skies.”

LINCOLN MURDOCH STORY

Theologian Willem VanGemeren describes impact of this single verse like this:

“The wars and disturbances on earth often camouflage God’s glory, as they divert attention away from the created heavenly bodies, which show more clearly God’s majesty by their regularity and orderliness. He alone is the Creator, because the magnificence of the heavenly bodies confirms that they are all ‘the work of his hands.’”

*“And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the hosts of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them...” -- **Deut. 4:19***

“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” --Romans 1:19-20

2. Through the Wisdom of Creative Order

Verse 2-4a – “Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

The phrase ‘day to day...night to night’ is in reference to and speaks of the regularity of creation.

The cycle of a regular day to day and night to night reveals the constancy of God’s creation and the regularity of the seasons, in particular to the agricultural calendar.

SPEECH: Think of the actions that result or God’s order, and

KNOWLEDGE: reveals the wisdom of God’s order in creation

This measure of wisdom of God’s creation is seen other places in the Bible as well.....open to **Genesis 8:22**

ALSO, turn to **Proverbs 8:22-31**. Here we see the writer of Proverbs us another literary device, personification in describing wisdom:

*“The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.” -- **Prov. 8:22-31***

John Calvin writes upon reflecting on the greatness of God’s creation and wisdom:

“When a man, from beholding and contemplating the heavens, has been brought to acknowledge God, he will learn also to reflect upon and to admire his wisdom and power as displayed on the face of the earth, not only in general, but even in the minutest plants.”

3. Proclamation in the wonder of God's Creative Power

Verse 4b-6 – “In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 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.”

This particular verse reiterates the reality that God is all wise, his all powerful and it is all for his glory.

What do we know about the sun.....

- The mass of the sun accounts for 99.8% of the entire solar system.
- You could fit 1.3million earths inside the sun
- If the earth was flattened, it would take 11,990 to cover the surface of the sun.
- The sun's energy output is roughly 386 billion billion megawatts.

If the sun's energy output for one second could be harnessed, it would satisfy world's energy demands for the next million years.

Here is what we learn from David's description of the sun:

- It is like a joy-filled champion of the earth and runs its circuit with vigor.
- The Power of Gods creation is self-evident. Words are not necessary when we look at the sun. We automatically realize its magnificence.

II. REVELATION OF GOD'S WISDOM

READ VERSES 7-11

The revelation of God's 'law' is clearer than the revelation in nature. Nature 'declares', 'proclaims' and displays God's majesty, power and wisdom. But the revelation of his law is greater still because it is given by a covenant God.

This is bound in his names.

Vs. 1-6God is referred to as 'El'

Vs. 7+God is referred to as Yahweh

THE SAME WONDERFUL ALL POWERFUL GOD WHO IS ALSO FULL OF MERCY AND GRACE AND TENDERNESS.

TWO NAMES – ONE GOD.....'YAHWEH-EL'

PSALM 18:30

"This God (El) – his way is perfect; the word of the LORD (Yahweh) proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."

PSALM 50:1

"The Mighty One, God (El) the LORD (Yahweh), speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting."

This list in Verses 7-11 are not to be seen and studied in abstraction, by themselves. They are representation of the comprehensive nature of God's revelation.

However this list gives us FOUR benefits and ONE promise.

Four Benefits

1. Revives the soul (v.7a)
i.e.: Salvation **READ PSALM 80:3,7,19**
2. Provides wisdom (v.7b)
3. Gives joy to the heart (v.8a)
4. Enlightens the soul (v.8b)

One Promise

1. "...in keeping them there is great reward" (v.11)

III. RESPONSE TO GOD'S AWESOMENESS

Verses 12-14 – "Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep gback your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD my rock and my redeemer."

Verse 12 – prayer of acknowledgement of his heart in light of who God is.

Verse 13 – Prayer of repentance in light of that acknowledgment

Verse 14 – Prayer of closing

CLOSING

Here in Psalm 19 we see from David a **Proclamation of Praise**, a **Revelation of God's Wisdom** and a humble **Response to God's Precepts**. And we could rightfully say that it all takes place within a very short time of personal time with God.

Charles Swindoll recounted a story he lived while he was overseas. I want to share it with you this morning.

“When I was overseas I was working with a young man who was under great stress and great pressure. He was a maverick sort of a missionary. He didn't fit the pattern or the mold of what you think of as a missionary. His ministry was in great part to the soldiers, who happened to be on the island of Okinawa by the thousands – in fact, it might be safe to say tens of thousands.

I went to his home one evening to visit with him, and his wife said he wasn't there but was probably down at the office. The office was downtown in a little alley off of the streets of Naha. It was a rainy night. And I decided I would get on the bus and travel down to be with Bob. She'd mentioned his stress and pressure, so I expected to find the man folded up in a despondency, discouragement, and depression, and just ready to finish it off.

I got off that little bus I walked down the alley about a block and a half and I turned right, down a little smaller alley, to a little hut with a tatami mat inside. As I got away from the street noise, I heard singing, “Come, Though fount of every blessing./ Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.” And then the next stanza, “Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it, / Prone to leave the God I love.”

Quietly I eavesdropped on his private praise service. As I stood in the rain and looked through the walls of that little cheap hut, I saw a man on his knees with his hands toward heaven giving God praise, with his Bible on one

side and an InterVarsity Christian Hymnal on the other side, his little spiral notebook, worn from use. And I saw him turn from page to page, where he would read it to God, then he would find a hymn and he would sing it to God.

And the remarkable thing is that the pressure that he was under did not leave for perhaps another two weeks, it seems. But that praise service alone before God absolutely revolutionized his life.”

You want to revive your soul? Find a way, any way, to get time with God like David in Psalm 19 and Bob in this story and praise Him. And in that praise realize that the “law revives the soul”.