

**“The Glory of God’s Works”**  
Psalm 19:1-14

Introduction: Most commentators agree that the author of this Psalm is David. Being a shepherd boy, David had many opportunities to gaze up into the heavens and behold the wondrous works of God. Therefore, God allowed this masterpiece of poetry to be written down by a man that was after God’s own heart. To help us understand the basic thought flow of this Psalm, notice a few outlines given by some commentators.

John G. Butler

1. The Works of God Psalm 19:1-6
2. The Words of God Psalm 19:7-11
3. The Way of God Psalm 19:12-14

John Phillips

1. God’s Revelation of Himself in the Sky Psalm 19:1-6
2. God’s Revelation of Himself in the Scriptures Psalm 19:7-14

Warren Wiersbe

1. The World Around Us—God the Creator Psalm 19:1-6
2. The Word Before Us—God the Instructor Psalm 19:7-11
3. The Witness Within Us—God the Redeemer Psalm 19:12-14

Body: This psalm tells us how God has revealed Himself both in the sky—in worlds, infinite worlds—and in the Scriptures—in words, infallible words. God has revealed Himself in what He has wrought and in what He has written. He is the God of creation and He is the God of revelation. (John Phillips)

- I. The Creation of the Saviour vs. 1-6
  - A. As Seen in the Sky vs. 1-4
    1. The Declaration of the Sky v. 1- “*The heavens declare the glory of God...*”
      - a. Psalm 8:3- “*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers...*”
      - b. Why does the Bible speak of heavens plural?
      - c. 2 Corinthians 12:2- “*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*”
      - d. If there is a third heaven, then there must be a first and a second heaven.
        - (1) The sphere of the clouds is the first heaven.
          - (a) Daniel 4:12- “*...and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof...*”

- (b) Matthew 6:26- *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”*
- (c) There may be as many as 1.6 million species of fungi in the world today, 10,000 species of ants, 300,000 species of flowering plants, between 4,000 and 5,000 species of mammals, and approximately 10,000 species of birds. (Edward O. Wilson)
- (d) The heavens declare the glory of God. There must be a God!
- (2) The sphere of the stars is the second heaven.
  - (a) Genesis 22:17- *“...the stars of the heaven...”*
  - (b) Isaiah 13:10- *“For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof...”*
- (3) The sphere of glory is the third heaven. 2 Corinthians 12:2
- e. All three of these declare that God is glorious.
- 2. The Display of the Sky v. 1- *“...and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”*
  - a. If great buildings and bridges show the skill of the workers and designers, how much more does the earth show the skill and wisdom of the Great Creator. (John G. Butler)
  - b. Genesis 1:8- *“And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”*
  - c. Genesis 1:14- *“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:”*
  - d. Genesis 1:15- *“And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.”*
  - e. Genesis 1:17- *“And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,”*
  - f. It was Adam that named the animals (Genesis 2:19) but it was God that named the stars. Psalms 147:4- *“He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.”*
  - g. According to the National Geographic, no one knows how many stars exist, but the numbers would be staggering. Our universe likely contains more than 100 billion galaxies, and each of those galaxies may have more than 100 billion stars.
  - h. Certainly, the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth His handywork. There must be a God. The stars never grow weary of declaring that there is a God.
- 3. The Discussion of the Sky vs. 2-4- *“Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...”*
  - a. The communication about God is a continuous communication, not a special day or night, but all the time. (John G. Butler)
  - b. Notice that three words are in italics. These signify that they have been supplied by the translators and are not in the original text. They were inserted

to help bridge the gulf between the Hebrew and the English languages. (John Phillips)

- c. Sometimes this leads to difficulties in understanding the Scriptures.
  - d. Example: Luke 17:34- *"I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left."*
  - e. Does this mean that when the kingdom of God comes, will God bring one sodomite with Him and leave the other in the bed.
  - f. Point: Pay attention to the italics. *Men* is in italics.
  - g. Side Note: If we remove any of the italicized words we must either remove them all or accept them all as Scripture. Anyone who has ever translated from one language to another knows that words must be added to the finished work to complete the sentence structure of the new language. (Samuel C. Gipp)
  - h. Let us read Psalm 19:3 without italics. *"no speech nor language, their voice is not heard."*
  - i. In other words, the starry hosts of heaven do not speak in the tongues of men for they have no speech and no language. Their voice, though loud and clear, is inaudible to the human ear. Nevertheless those burning pinpricks in the sky communicate powerfully to all mankind. (John Phillips)
  - j. This great communication about God spoken by the creation covers all languages and all lands. No one has an excuse. (John G. Butler)
- B. As Seen in the Sun vs. 4-6
1. The Residence of the Sun v. 4- *"...In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,"*
    - a. *"In them"* refers to the heavens.
    - b. Tabernacle – "a tent, covering, dwelling place" (Strong's)
    - c. David knew where on the horizon the sun entered its tent at night, and where it would emerge the next morning. (John Phillips)
  2. The Revelation of the Sun v. 5- *"Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber..."*
    - a. David was an outdoorsman and often watched the sunrise and sunset, and what he saw day after day reminded him of a bridegroom leaving the marriage pavilion to claim his bride. (Warren Wiersbe)
    - b. When the bridegroom comes out of his chamber, he is dressed in glorious apparel. Likewise, when the sun comes out of its chamber (the night), it shines forth gloriously upon the earth. (John G. Butler)
  3. The Race of the Sun v. 5- *"...and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race."*
    - a. This speaks of a vigorous athlete running a race. (Warren Wiersbe)
    - b. A strong runner runs the race steadily and successfully. So the sun rises in strength and shines steadily upon the earth. (John G. Butler)
  4. The Reach of the Sun v. 6- *"His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."*
    - a. The Sun's Habitation v. 6- *"His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it..."*
      - (1) The path of the sun appears to travel from one end of the sky to the other. (John G. Butler)

- (2) This portrayal of the sun is spoken as man sees it, not necessarily as it actually is, for the earth's turning is why the sun makes a "circuit" around the earth. (John G. Butler)
- b. The Sun's Heat v. 6- "...and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."
  - (1) The sun is filled with scorching hot gasses that account for more than 99.8 percent of the total mass in the solar system. (National Geographic)
  - (2) The temperature of the sun is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit on the surface and more than 28 million degrees Fahrenheit at the core. (National Geographic)
  - (3) Though millions of miles away, the sun heats every part of the earth. If it was not for the sun, this earth would be a frozen piece of real estate. (John G. Butler)
- 5. Facts about the sun.
  - a. The sun is a powerful center of attention. It holds the solar system together. (National Geographic)
  - b. The sun is a big star. At about 864,000 miles wide, it could hold 109 planet earths across its surface. (National Geographic)
  - c. If the sun were a hollow ball, it could hold more than a million earths on the inside of it. (National Geographic)
  - d. The sun is 92,960,000 miles away from the earth. (Wikipedia)

## II. The Communication of the Saviour vs. 7-11

### A. The Description of the Word vs. 7-9

- 1. As outlined by John G. Butler
  - a. The Names of the Word
    - (1) Six different names are given for the Word of God which are all descriptive of what the Word is. (John G. Butler)
    - (2) Fear (v. 9) may seem unusual, but all of God's law is to be obeyed and it puts the fear of God in our hearts. (John G. Butler)
  - b. The Nature of the Word
  - c. The Nutrition of the Word
    - (1) No other book in the world can claim these character statements. (John G. Butler)
    - (2) The Word of God affects our soul, heart, and eyes.
- 2. Law v. 7- "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul...*"
  - a. The Noun- "*law*"
    - (1) The law is referring to the Torah.
    - (2) This would be the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible.
  - b. The Adjective- "*perfect*"
  - c. The Action- "*converting the soul*"
    - (1) Converting – "to turn back" (Strong's)
    - (2) As the sun returns in the heavens, so God's Word returns the sinner to God. (John Phillips)
- 3. Testimony v. 7- "*...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*"
  - a. The Noun- "*testimony*"
    - (1) The ten commandments were known as the testimony.

- (2) Exodus 25:21- *“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.”*
- b. The Adjective- *“sure”*
- c. The Action- *“making wise the simple”*
- (1) God’s Word provides guidance for today and promises glory for tomorrow. (John Phillips)
4. Statutes v. 8- *“The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart...”*
- a. The Noun- *“statutes”*
- (1) These are God’s detailed instructions concerning the practical matters of everyday life. (Warren Wiersbe)
- (2) For the Old Testament Jew, the statutes related to what they ate, how they dressed, how they kept clean, and so forth. (Warren Wiersbe)
- b. The Adjective- *“right”*
- c. The Action- *“rejoicing the heart”*
- (1) Just having a Bible in your home is not good enough, you must hide the Bible in your heart as well. (John G. Butler)
5. Commandment v. 8- *“...the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”*
- a. The Noun- *“commandment”*
- b. The Adjective- *“pure”*
- c. The Action- *“enlightening the eyes”*
6. Fear v. 9- *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever...”*
- a. The Noun- *“fear”*
- (1) This is an unusual name for the Scriptures, but it reminds us that we cannot learn the Word of God unless we reverence and respect the God of the Word. (Warren Wiersbe)
- b. The Adjective- *“clean”*
- c. The Action- *“enduring for ever”*
7. Judgments v. 9- *“...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”*
- a. The Noun- *“judgments”*
- b. The Adjective- *“true”*
- c. The Action- *“righteous altogether”*
- B. The Description of the Word vs. 7-9 (Continued)
1. God’s Word Challenges Us 19:7
2. God’s Word Cheers Us 19:8
3. God’s Word Changes Us 19:9 (Outline taken from John Phillips)
- C. The Desire of the Word v. 10- *“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”*
1. The man who once craved for gold now craves for God. (John Phillips)
2. Illustration: Zaccheus
- D. The Duties of the Word v. 11- *“Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*
1. It will Caution v. 11- *“Moreover by them is thy servant warned...”*
2. It will Compensate v. 11- *“...and in keeping of them there is great reward.”*

### III. The Corruption of the Saint vs. 12-14

A. Concerning Private Sins v. 12- *“Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.”*

1. The Word of God in vs. 9-11 has the ability to cleanse God’s servants in v. 12.
2. One illustration of the cleansing of God’s Word can be seen in the laver used in the Tabernacle and Temple of God.
3. The laver was made of the mirrors of the women and filled with water. Thus it both revealed defilement and it removed defilement. (John Phillips)

B. Concerning Presumptuous Sins v. 13- *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”*

1. Presumptuous means arrogant and proud. They are sins that are committed willfully with a knowledge of wrongdoing.
2. Numbers 15:30- *“But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.”*
3. Deuteronomy 17:12- *“And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.”*

C. Concerning Pondered Sins v. 14- *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

#### 1. Our Mouth

- a. A bad mouth will stir up sins not only in ourselves but also in others. (John G. Butler)
- b. Luke 6:45- *“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”*

#### 2. Our Meditation

- a. Proverbs 23:7- *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*
- b. We are not always what we think we are, but we are always what we think. (John G. Butler)
- c. Do not believe everything you think. (Author unknown)

Conclusion: After studying this Psalm we can say along with the apostle Paul that mankind is *“without excuse”* when it comes to the wonderful works of God. Creation itself manifests that there is a God in heaven. That being true, the heavens declare His glory, the Scriptures describe His glory, and the human heart demands His glory.