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The
Songs
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PSALMS - The SONGS

Nineteen

Heavens Tell God's Glory -
His Ways are Right, His Judgments are True

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to the psalmist, along with all pronouns and synonyms (such as servant), with a blue capital "P".

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to the heavens with a blue cloud shape.

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to the sun with a yellow circle.

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to the Law of the Lord, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a brown "ten commandments" shape (an underlined rounded "M").

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every reference to sins, transgressions, errors, etc. with an orange circle.

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 19** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Psalm 19** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The heavens speak
2. The written Word speaks

3. The servant has responsibility

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 19:1-6

What are the heavens doing?



The Hebrew word for “heavens” is *shamayim*.
It is from an unused root meaning to be lofty.
It means the sky, as aloft.

The Hebrew word for “telling” is *caphar*
and means to score with a mark as a tally or record.
By implication, it means to inscribe, to enumerate, or recount.

What is the expanse of the heavens doing?



The Hebrew word for “expanse” is *raqiya*
and means properly, an expanse, as in the firmament or visible arch of the sky.

The Hebrew word for “declaring” is *nagad*
and means to front or stand boldly out opposite.
It implies the idea of manifesting,
or announcing by word of mouth to one present.
Specifically, it means to expose, predict, explain, or praise.

Is there a difference between heavens and expanse?

If so, what is it?

Is there a difference between telling and declaring?

If so, what is it?

What is the difference between the Glory of God and the work of His hands? (There is definitely a difference!)

According to **verses 1-6**, what is the correlation between the work of God's hands and His Glory?

When does speech pour forth?

What is the message of the speech?



The Hebrew word for “day” is *yom* and comes from an unused root meaning to be hot. It means a day (as the warm hours). Literally it refers to the period between sunrise and sunset, or from one sunset to the next. Figuratively it refers to a space of time defined by an associated term.

The Hebrew word for “pours forth” is *nava* and means to flow, utter, pour out or gush out.

The Hebrew word for “speech” is *emer* and means speech, or to say.

When is knowledge revealed?

What is the knowledge that is revealed?



The Hebrew word for “night” is *laylah*

**and means to twist (the light away).
It comes from an unused root meaning to fold back.**

**The Hebrew word for “reveals” is *chavah*
and is a primitive root which properly means to live.
By implication, it means to declare or show.**

**The Hebrew word for “knowledge” is *daat*
and comes from a word that means to know.
Its closest synonyms are “to discern” and “to recognize”.**



**Each day, from light until dark, one day after another,
the heavens continually and constantly gush out,
as from an inexhaustible stream,
a mind-boggling message—
the message of its Creator.**

**Each night, from dark until light, one night after another,
the expanse endlessly and eternally
discloses and declares breathtakingly staggering truth—
truth about its Creator.**

Is the speech heard (literally)?

Are there literal words?

Is there a literal voice declaring the message of its Creator?

Even though there is no sound, the message is heard nonetheless. Just how far and wide does the message of the heavens reach?

1.

2.

Is the message ever interrupted?

The psalmist zooms in on one specific work of God's hands in the heavens—what is it?

In what has God placed a tent for the sun?

What is the tent for the sun?

What figurative picture does the psalmist paint for us of the sun rising?

How would you picture a bridegroom coming out of his chamber?

What figurative picture does the psalmist paint for us of the sun making its way through the skies?

Is a mighty man able to finish his course cheerfully, and with ease, each and every time?

How does the strong man compare with the sun's "attitude" and ability to fulfill its recurrent role?

The sun's vigor, exuberance, excitement, and might are displayed. Its work is recognized as unfaltering, enduring, vast, and comprehensive. What does its description tell us about the Glory of its Creator—God?

How wide-reaching is the sun's "circuit of space"?

Where is the arena of the sun's tour of duty?

1.

2.

How thoroughly does it do its job?

Who and what are affected by the sun's heat?

Who and what are *not* affected by the sun's heat?

Psalm 19:7-11

The heavens have been the mouthpiece of the glorious knowledge about God in the first six verses. What agent becomes God's speaker in **verses 7-11**?

Jumping ahead just a bit in order to see the flow of the **Psalm**, what agent becomes the representative of God's Glory in **verses 12-14**?

Alright, back to the second segment. How is the new "speaker" defined?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What is true of the law of the LORD?

What does it do?

What is true of the testimony of the LORD?

What does it do?

What is true of the precepts of the LORD?

What do they do?

What is true of the commandment of the LORD?

What does it do?

What is true of the fear of the LORD?

What does it do?

What is the magnificent benefit of the fear of the Lord enduring forever?



**In this Psalm, “fear” is a synonym for the law, or Word, of God—
it’s purpose is to produce fear, or reverence,
in order to initiate the obedience needed to survive before Him.**

Deuteronomy 4:10
***Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb,
when the LORD said to me,
“Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words
so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth,
and that they may teach their children.”***

**As it was wisdom for the people of Israel
to listen to the Words of God all those many years ago,
so should we...**

Deuteronomy 4:1-24

Now, O Israel,

**listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform,
so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land
which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.**

**You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it,
that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God
which I command you.**

**Your eyes have seen what the LORD has done in the case of Baal-peor,
for all the men who followed Baal-peor,
the LORD your God has destroyed them from among you.**

But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

**See, I have taught you statutes and judgments
just as the LORD my God commanded me,
that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it.**

**So keep and do them,
for that is your wisdom and your understanding
in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say,
“Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”**

**For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it
as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?**

**Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments
as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?**

**“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently,
so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen
and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life;
but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.**

**Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb,
when the LORD said to me,**

**“Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words
so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth,
and that they may teach their children.”**

**You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain,
and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens:
darkness, cloud and thick gloom.**

**Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire;
you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form — only a voice.
So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform,
that is, the Ten Commandments;
and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.**

**The LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments,
that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it.**

**So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form
on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire,
so that you do not act corruptly
and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure,**

***the likeness of male or female,
the likeness of any animal that is on the earth,
the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky,
the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground,
the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth.
And beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven
and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven,
and be drawn away and worship them and serve them,
those which the LORD your God has allotted
to all the peoples under the whole heaven.
But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt,
to be a people for His own possession, as today.
Now the LORD was angry with me on your account,
and swore that I would not cross the Jordan,
and that I would not enter the good land
which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.
For I will die in this land, I shall not cross the Jordan,
but you shall cross and take possession of this good land.
So watch yourselves,
that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God
which He made with you,
and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which
the LORD your God has commanded you.
For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.***

What is true of the judgments of the LORD?

Just how true?

Before we go any further, let's take a moment to record this wonderful information. First, list the six names which refer to the Word of God.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

6.

Next, list the six state descriptions of the Word of God.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Finally, list the six ramifications of the Word of God.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

What is the “they” in **verse 10**?

What is more desirable than gold, even fine gold?

Is the Word of God more desirable than working for wealth?



Psalm 119:72

***The law of Your mouth is better to me
Than thousands of gold and silver pieces.***

What is sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb?



Psalm 119:103

***How sweet are Your Words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!***

Is the Word of God sweeter than working for life’s necessary food?



Job 23:12

***I have not departed from the command of His lips;
I have treasured the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food.***

What warns God’s servant?



Psalm 119:24

***Your testimonies also are my delight;
They are my counselors.***

About what does the Word of God warn His servant?

What is a benefit in keeping the Word of God?



Proverbs 13:13

***The one who despises the Word will be in debt to it,
But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.***

From Whom is the reward?

Psalm 19:12-14

What rhetorical question does the psalmist pose?

Can anyone discern his errors?

How can a man discern his errors? (Hint: Remember the context of **Psalm 19**.)

What plea does the psalmist make before the LORD concerning sins that seem unintentional?

What else does the psalmist ask the LORD to do to protect him?



**Take note of the differences between “hidden faults” and “presumptuous sins”
and their consequences.**

Numbers 15:27–31

***Also if one person sins unintentionally,
then he shall offer a one year old female goat for a sin offering.***

***The priest shall make atonement before the LORD
for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally,
making atonement for him that he may be forgiven.
You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally,
for him who is native among the sons of Israel
and for the alien who sojourns among them.***

***But the person who does anything defiantly,
whether he is native or an alien,
that one is blaspheming the LORD;
and that person shall be cut off from among his people.
Because he has despised the word of the LORD
and has broken His commandment,
that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt will be on him.***

What does he know will happen without intervention from the LORD?

What are the psalmist's two prayer requests?

1.

2.

If the LORD answers the psalmist's two prayer requests, what will be true of him?

1.

2.

Do you see how they correspond to one another?

Finally, the psalmist finishes his prayer. What does he ask for?

1.

2.

With what three names does he address God?

1.

2.

3.

READ AND REASON

Psalm 19 is interesting in many ways, one being the duo personifications—the heavens and the law. Both are said to speak for Him. Both are speaking to mankind. Both are indisputable.

In the first, the heavens are seen as “mute loudspeakers” for the Almighty Creator. They trumpet forth His Glories and intricacies while not speaking a word.

The Word, however, does more than declare its message—it affects the listener with change. Once the individual responds rightly to its message, he can no longer remain as is—he will certainly be endowed with the supernatural aspects of the Word of God.

His soul will be restored.

He will be made wise.

His heart will rejoice.

His eyes will be enlightened.

His reverence toward the LORD (and therefore, his obedience) will endure forever.

He will know justice.

~ Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-6

Verses 7-11

Verses 12-14

~ Purpose of Psalm 19

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 19.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

~ Theme of Psalm 19

**Try giving Psalm 19 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
