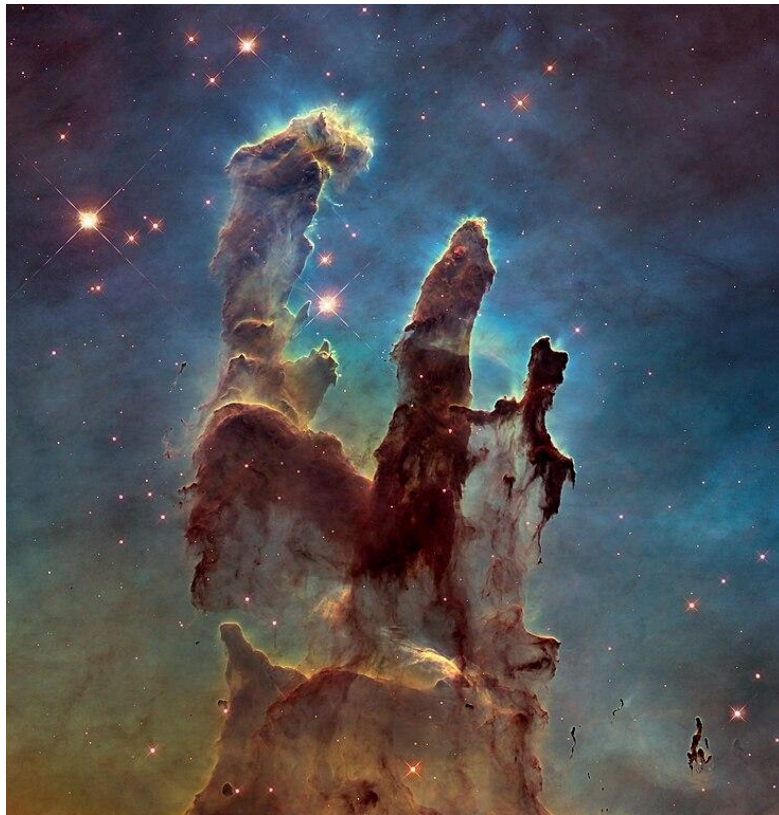


PSALM 19



The glory of Creation, Revelation and Salvation

Reading - Psalm 19

- How should we read and understand such things like Psalms?
 - They have been called the language of the soul.

“But Sir I don't get poetry and I'm not really good at understanding literature.”

- That's ok.

No one is good at anything until they learn.

- So;

Let's analyse this psalm in a rather technical way at first.

- This helps to give us the *structure* of the subjects
Do this with a passage, then work down to the details.

- V 1-6 is clearly one subject, therefore one section.
 - What's it about?

“The heavens, ..the firmament...the sun”

It's the created realm.

1.V-General revelation.

- Next the subject changes
- V 7-11

“Law of the Lord...testimonies...statutes”

- This is the Laws of God, especially His moral law contained in the scriptures.
“Testimonies” opens it out a bit to all the Bible.

2.V-Special revelation.

- The last section starts with a question, and it gets more personal.
- V 12-14

“Who can understand his errors (sins)”

- Then we have the writer making requests.
- Who is he speaking to?

Clearly this is a pattern prayer. One we can use.

3.V- Prayer.

- There we are, that wasn't so hard.
- Now we have a structure to work with.
- Now let's go back and look a bit closer.
 - To understand a passage, you may have to read and reread it over and over again.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 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. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 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.”

- Creation speaks NATURAL REVELATION (CREATION)
- “Heavens/firmament vault of the heavens” Space
(Explain the Powers of 10 video)- the wonders of the vast to the tiny.
- This all certainly declares God's glory.
 - It is a willful blindness to clearly see all this (more than other age) and to shut one's eyes to the obvious, that it was created by an intelligent designer God.
- In the Powers of 10 video it zooms into DNA. It describes it as “*the powerful words of a genetic message*” A code!
 - It couldn't have been more clearly evidenced if God had written across the sky “I exist!”
 - But still People refuse to believe.
- “Their line is gone out”- like a tape measure, this is ‘Maths’.
 - The universal forces can be explained in neat little equations.
 - Who made maths?

(Explain video of maths patterns. Mandelbrot set.)

- There are more ways to speak than just with human languages.

- Take music
- The sounds of nature- bird song, the wind in the trees, the waves on the shore, soothing rainfall.
- The beauty of nature (even though corrupted),
- The science, the animals.
- “A tabernacle for the sun”
 - A tent for the sun?
 - In years past people couldn't understand this well. But now we know about the fact of gravity being like a great sheet, and space and time curving due to gravity.
 - The sun sits within this like in a tent.
 - Even in Job, Isaiah, and Jeremiah it insists the heavens were “stretched out” by God.
 - Now we know the universe is literally expanding.
 - In revelation it reveals that God will roll them up again like a scroll at Judgement Day, then make them new.
- The sun
 - It's not a ball of flames. It's a twisted cauldron of ferocious plasma.
 - The twisted coronal loops and snapping mass coronal ejections.(Explain video). Amazing, beautiful, majestic.
 - Life on earth absolutely depends on it for heat and light.
 - You can't escape it's influence, nor would you want to.
 - The sun is the most obvious visual aid for God's knowledge and influence.
 - The light of belief in Him.
 - If the sun would be switched off. Everything dies.
 - If belief in God ceases, no spiritual life and no light of spiritual understanding.
- “Like a strong man..to run a race”
 - Christ is the strong man, who runs the race of life for us, and doesn't lose like us, but wins it for us!
- Creation declares God's glory, and we should glorify him as well.
- But when Mankind sees these things does he do that?
 - Shamelessly, no.
 - Nature programs glorying in nature without reference to God.
 - They only reference the false theory of evolution.
 - Have we done the same?
 - The angels witness and shudder at the wrath we bring upon ourselves.

● Then we move to SPECIAL REVELATION (THE SCRIPTURES)

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

- We need more light of understanding than the created realm can give.
 - Go stand on a mountain and stare at the wonder of the view.
 - It will give you a sense of God, but not much detail.
 - We need to know about the spiritual realm.

-If only He could speak to us.

HE HAS!, we just don't listen!

- It's "perfect". It has to be, if bits of it are clearly from God, but not all, how could we know which bits to trust.
 - "But, surely, not every single word Sir"
 - Well let me ask you.
 - If one word can change the meaning of a sentence, then clearly every word has to be vital.
 - God gave every word to His prophets (they didn't always understand it themselves), no errors. He had to.
 - Now I'm talking about the original language.
 - Errors in translation and copying can occur.
 - But it is amazing how few of these there are, and did you know not one copying error in the early scribal texts changes the doctrine of the scripture (they're largely spelling, or word order mistakes).
- It "converts the soul"
 - We can't ignore this.
 - Of course it does.
 - If we don't understand the Bible, how can we understand the saving Gospel message of a prophesied Saviour Messiah, who came, lived and died to be a substitutionary offering to God to pay for our sins and provide our righteousness, so we can be reunited with God, our ultimate purpose.
- The Bible is "sure".
 - It is a fixed truth.
 - In a world that can't find objective knowledge or morality. With the Bible you can.

"making wise the simple"

- It is "right".
 - It shows us how to live a righteous life.
- "rejoicing the heart"
 - This makes us happy, blessed, instead of miserable and lost.
- If we "fear" God, that is - reverence and respect Him as believers, then we can be "pure" and "clean".
 - That is Holiness.
 - Who we are, our character (as opposed to righteousness, which is what we do)
 - We can be morally clean, instead of corrupted in body, mind and heart.
- Desire them more than material things like "gold" or "sweet honey".
 - Desire them more than material goods and wealth
 - More than pleasures

- To live a hedonistic life is a lie believed.

"It will give me Joy!" No, just short term brief pleasures and then long term unhappiness and pain.

- Many have to find this out by bitter experience.
- I hope you learn it in theory, not in practice!

- It gives Warnings
- It gives Rewards

"Thy servant is warned"

- There are many warnings in the Bible. *Turn from your sins, do not love the world, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, beware the wrath of the Lamb* and many many others.
- We would be wise to know them, and heed them.
- A warning is not a bad thing.
 - To see a danger sign that says "Danger of death" and it keeps you from the danger because someone who cares for your life put it there, is a good thing. If it makes us fear, it's not really bad.

"in keeping of them is great reward"

- This is in danger of being an understatement!
- A saved soul
- A friend who can hear and answer prayer. A blessed life of meaning, purpose and fulfilment.
- Eternal life,
- The inheritance of heaven,
- Bliss with Christ,
- Mansions to live in. And so much more words fail to describe!

"Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 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. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

- SIN
- The understanding of sin

"Who can understand his errors?"

- The only question in the psalm.
- Can you?
- It's a Rhetorical question - for you to think about.
- Implied is that - No one can understand his sin without God
- What follows is a Prayer for Cleansing
- This is what we need- especially today- when the number one tactic of Satan is to pollute the minds of the young, and encourage a corruption of sexual behaviour.
- From "[secret, presumptuous sins](#)"- things we haven't been aware of before, but now start to understand.
- From its "[dominion](#)" it's power.
 - Have you got habits and desires and passions which you can't control?
 - Like temper, deceit or certain behaviours you wish you could be rid of.

- Conversion by repentance and faith in Christ the Redeemer will give you power to have the strength to cast them behind you and walk away from them.
- Then we can be “upright”, righteous, declared justified.
- “innocent of the great transgression”
- That is made innocent from our great fall from God. Free from original sin and the curse.

- PRAYER

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight,”

- Mouth and Meditation - words and thoughts- an acceptable prayer.

- REDEMPTION

“O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

- Christ is the strong man
 - The Redeemer - He can run the race and pay the price to set us free.
 - This is why we can be forgiven.
 - He did this for us on Calvary's cross.

A perfect place to end.

- Now we understand the passage!

May it, and many others, be a blessing and salvation to your eternal soul.