

God Is There And He Is Not Silent

Psalm 19

Intro. God is there and He is not silent. In fact He has revealed Himself to us in 2 books: the book of nature and the book of Scripture. Psalm 19 addresses both of God's books, the book of nature in vs. 1-6 and the book of Scripture in vs. 7-14.

I. Listen To God Speak Through Nature 19:1-6

God has revealed himself to every rational human on the earth in two ways: 1) nature and 2) conscience. We call this natural or general revelation. In vs. 1-6 David addresses the wonder of nature and creation.

1) The heavens speak of His glory 19:1-4

- The heavens, referring to the moon, planets, sun and stars announce or speak of the greatness and awesomeness of God.
- The firmament or "skies" refer to the lower atmosphere where the clouds float and the birds fly.
 - Day and night utters (*NIV*, "pour forth") speech. "Utters" means "to bubble forth!"
 - "And night unto night reveals knowledge." The night shouts to us God is there, and what a glorious God He is.

This "wordless word" is visibly given to every hemisphere, every continent, every nation, every people.

2) The sun speaks of His glory 19:4-6

David now speaks of the greatest stellar light from earth's perspective: the sun.

- David says the sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his bridal chamber on his wedding day headed for his lover.
- Second, the sun is like a strong man (*NIV*, "champion") rejoicing to run its race (v.5). It rises or starts on one end and makes its way to other.

Points of Application

- 1) Rom 1:19-20 says from creation we can know God exist and that God is great.
- 2) This knowledge of God is not verbal but visible, heard with the eyes not the ears.
- 3) This visual, pictorial knowledge is given to all people anywhere and everywhere.
- 4) Superstitious people see and hear more by means of astrology, than the heavens are truly saying, while the secularist and humanist see and hear less than what the heavens are saying.

II. Listen To God Speak Through Scripture 19:7-14

- Revelation from nature leaves men without excuse. It is enough to condemn them. It is not enough to convert them. They need special revelation, the Bible.
- It is an interesting and instructive exercise to scan the Bible and see what various persons say about the inspiration and inerrancy, the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

Peter – 2 Peter 1:20-21

Paul – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Jesus – Matt 5:17-18

John 10:35; 17:17

David highlights and draws our attention to no less than 12 marvelous truths about the Holy Scriptures.

1) It is perfect and strengthens. 19:7

"law" (torah) = lit., instruction

"perfect" = whole, complete

"converting or restoring the soul" = it renews, refreshes, revives and brings the soul back

to where it belongs

- 2) It is sure and gives wisdom. 19:7
 “testimony” = Scripture is God’s own witness to who He is what He requires
 “sure” = true in principle and verifiable in life’s situations; they are trustworthy, neither fallible, unstable or undependable.
 “making wise the simple” = the Bible takes the undiscerning, naïve and gullible person and makes him/her wise.”
- 3) It is right and brings joy. 19:8
 “statutes”, “precepts” = rules, regulations, guidelines for living.
 “right” = never wrong
 “rejoicing the heart” = if your heart needs joy, dive into God’s Word.
- 4) It is pure and provides direction. 19:8
 “commandment” = do’s and don’ts. They reveal God’s character.
 “pure” or “radiant” (*NIV*) = devoid of sin or malice or corrupting influence
 “enlightening the eyes” = it brings understanding
- 5) It is clean and endures forever. 19:9
 “fear of the Lord” = right and holy reverence and respect for God.
 “clean” = both in terms of its essence and its impact on our hearts.
 “enduring forever” = its power and purpose never end.
- 6) It is true and righteous altogether. 19:9
 “judgments” = divine decisions about human conduct.
 “true” = never false; never off the mark.
 “righteous altogether” = the Word of God provides us with the standard of righteousness.
- 7) It is valuable and priceless. 19:10
 Take the best this world can offer. It is as nothing when compared to the Word of God.
- 8) It is delicious and sweet. 19:10
 The Bible is sweet to the soul.
 The Bible satisfies forever the desires and longings of the heart.
- 9) It is helpful and rewarding. 19:11
 The Bible alerts us to sin, warns us of spiritual danger.
 The Word warns us how to live and not live, how to walk and not walk, how to find joy and avoid sorrow.
- 10) It is instructive and cleansing. 19:12
 David addresses 2 avenues of sin in vs. 12-13. He follows each by providing a strategy for overcoming each one.
 Sin is confusing or baffling. There is a way of sinning that deceives and fools us. Our errors are often hidden from ourselves. We don’t feel the sinfulness of it. We just don’t see our sin as sin.
- 11) It is protective and liberating. 19:13
 The second way of sinning comes out in verse 13. There is a special category of sinning- namely, sinning in arrogant defiance of a known law. They are fully intentional, with our eyes wide open, and with a heart that says, “I know God says this is wrong and harmful, but I just don’t care what God thinks, I am going to do it anyway.”
- 12) It is transforming and saving. 19:14
 Words from my mouth/thoughts and emotions from my heart: there is only one goal for both. They must be acceptable (*NIV*, “pleasing”) in Your sight, the only eyes that matter.

Conclusion

It was well said by John Bunyan, author of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, “sin will keep you from the Bible or the Bible will keep you from sin.” (Psalm 119:11)

