

Psalm 19

A Psalm of David given to the chief musician for praise in the sanctuary of God. Many have entitled it God's two books. As a child lived in Ballyhalbert on the Ards peninsula. Used to be out at night in the village – the days when you were free to run without supervision! Gaze at the stars. Ursa major (the Great bear); Orion the Hunter; Scorpius (the scorpion); the north star. So also David as kept his father's sheep on the hillside, he would gaze up at the book of the heavens. He also knew the WORD BOOK of the LAW. Wise is the man why will say 'My father wrote them both'.

IN FACT THREE BOOKS ARE HERE.

As Spurgeon called them the WORLD BOOK and the WORD book, two sacred tomes.

BOOK OF THE WORLD –SHOWS GOD'S GLORY and the **BOOK OF THE WORD (the written revelation) – SHOWS GOD'S GUIDANCE** and the **BOOK OF THE HEART – SHOWS THE NEED FOR GOD'S GRACE.**

But here there are Two sacred texts – tragedy is that many will not accept seeing the divine hand in both.

V1-2 the heavens **SPEAK** and reveal knowledge. They demonstrate God's glory. Rom. 1v18-20. In fact here God speaks both day by day and night by night through both sun by day and moon by night. He also speaks continually – the meaning 'is speaking' for this is the sense.

V3-6 the heavens speak to the whole world – there is nowhere that the message/revelation is not seen for 'their line has gone out through all the earth'. They are CHS 'God's travelling preachers'. The sun passes through the heavens from one end to the other. The same sun and moon lighten us here, but also in France, Germany, Ukraine, Africa, China. In the heavens he has set a dwelling place for the sun. The sun appears and goes forth as a well-dressed bridegroom looking for his bride. Is it that God is seeking a response from us?? The whole world is without excuse. It is also like a powerful runner; it has its swift circuit from one end of heaven to the other and suffers no exhaustion or fatigue; again, nothing is hidden from its heat.

So behind all is a glorious God, an intelligent planner, designing and controlling Creator and it is all his handiwork, as v1 has affirmed. Many of course will seek to deny this. Apologetics have set out the Ontological (concerning with the view that the reality of God's existence through the very conception of the 'being' of God)/Cosmological (there must be a first cause) /Teleological arguments (from design). They all have certain strengths but no doubt the argument from design is powerful. E.g., think of the eye and the brain and even the tiny flower. So here the revelation is visual not verbal. But there is also a verbal communication from God.

v7-11. THE BOOK OF THE WORD.

In the first while we learn of his glory, his wisdom and power, his deity, in this second we learn more of his will. David has in mind mainly the first part of the BOOK OF THE WORD, the law – although what he says about it is true for all of God's revelation.

He uses different descriptions for God's word – it is God's law, testimony, statutes, commandments, judgements. He writes of its great value and power, its impact upon men; he affirms that it is to be valued much more than gold; it is sweeter than honey.

God's law is perfect setting out the way to true happiness and can return the soul to a right relationship with God.

The testimony of the Lord is sure – reliable, you can believe it and rest upon its promises and guidance. Note 2 Tim. 3v16 affirms that all scripture is 'given by inspiration of God' – 40 authors, but so guided that what we have is not their words but his revelation, God's word to us. Certain and true, it can guide us all 'making wise the simple' You need to believe what it says. Rom.3v22-23; Acts 4v12; John 3v7; 14v6.

The statutes of the Lord are right – they are truly fitted to speak into the needs of men and bring the right direction. Notice the progression, first converted, then made wise, also joyful; but now the commandment with no error in it brings true discernment, 'enlightening the eyes'. The reverential fear of God it produces inner purity And the revealed will of God never changes but endures forever. His judgements are true, righteous ALTOGETHER – all of them in total, each of them on its own are totally reliable. THE BOOK OF THE WORD every word of it, you can believe, be guided by it.

No wonder David says that it should be treasured more than the most fine gold. Sadly men seek and give their whole lives for solid gold, rather than solid truth! Do you treasure it? Have you ate of its sweetness?

By them we are warned! The scriptures are there to warn us - heed its warnings and keeping its guidance will bring reward.

David now passes from the BOOK of the WORLD and the BOOK of the WORD to the **BOOK of the HEART**. How this two-fold revelation should impact us at the centre of our being. The response David outlines is that revelation leads him to see his errors, their multitude; to call for cleansing from the secret sins in his own life; also his presumptuous sins – that he will have help from God not to act in this way, that he may not be found guilty of such great transgression. He cries to God that his future thoughts and words will prove acceptable in the eyes of the Lord.

The key is in the last cry to God. 'O Lord, my strength and my redeemer'. It is only from the Lord can he find redemption from sin and the enablement to live in a way that is acceptable to him.

You have looked into the BOOK OF THE WORLD and the BOOK OF THE WORD. NOW you must look into the BOOK OF YOUR HEART.

You cannot live as God would have you for we are fallen sinners – all of us. We resist the God who has revealed himself in the heavens and in his word (Rom. 1v18). We push away the demands of submission to our creator and refuse to be guided by his word. We are under his wrath – hell-bound! We need a heart change. God can do this for us – listen to two scriptures: Isa. 53v6 and Jer. 31v33-34. Call out to your Redeemer, repent of your rebellion, submit to him, believe that he can redeem you, deliver you from judgement and forget forever your sin!!!

This is because he dealt with it in the person of his son. Isa 53v6. (Bertie Cooke).