

International Conversation Cafe

Old Testament: Psalm 19, the Revelation of God

The book of Psalms is a book of poetry mainly written by King David. To read it is like reading his journal. His true feelings and thoughts in a forthright way. He writes about personal events, joys and sorrows and how he resolves difficulty. He also writes about his relationship and understanding of God. From David, we see an example of someone who had a close relationship with God.

Psalm 19 (New International Reader's Version)

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

- ¹ The heavens tell about the **glory** of God.
The skies show that his hands created them.
- ² Day after day they speak about it.
Night after night they make it known.
- ³ But they don't speak or use words.
No sound is heard from them.
- ⁴ At the same time, their voice goes out into the whole earth.
Their words go out from one end of the world to the other.

How can the sky speak? What does it say?

God has set up a tent in the heavens for the sun.

- ⁵ The sun is like a groom coming out of the room where he spent his wedding night.
The sun is like a great runner who takes delight in running a race.
- ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens.
Then it moves across to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.

What are two descriptions of the sun?

How do you think David's description is opposite many cultures of his day that worshiped the sun?

How is the God of the Bible different from other gods people worship today?

Do you think nature is an evidence of the existence of God? Why or why not?

In the second part of the Psalm, David writes of another way we know information about God and what that knowledge does for us. There are several terms David uses to describe different parts of God's word.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect.
It gives us new strength.
The laws of the Lord can be trusted.
They make childish people wise.
⁸ The rules of the Lord are right.
They give joy to our hearts.
The commands of the Lord shine brightly.
They give light to our minds.
⁹ The law that brings respect for the Lord is pure.
It lasts forever.
The directions the Lord gives are true.
All of them are completely right.

*List the descriptions of God's word and the benefit they give to people.
Have you had the experience of reading God's word and experiencing any of these benefits?
Please explain.
Is there anything frustrating about reading the Bible?*

The writer goes on to express how valuable God's word has become in his life.

¹⁰ They are more priceless than gold.
They have greater value than huge amounts of pure gold.
They are sweeter than honey
that is taken from the honeycomb.
I am warned by them.
When I obey them, I am greatly rewarded.

What valuable things does David compare God's word to? If you were writing this Psalm and wanted to compare it to something valuable, what would you compare it to?

¹² Can I know my mistakes?
Forgive my hidden faults.
¹³ Keep me also from the sins I want to commit.
May they not be my master.
Then I will be without blame.
I will not be guilty of any great sin against your law.
¹⁴ Lord, may the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
be pleasing in your eyes.
You are my Rock and my Redeemer.

Is there any phrase of verse from this Psalm you would like to remember?