

## *Psalm 19*

### *God Speaks to Assure Us of His Existence*

**The Heading:** For the director of music. A psalm of David

This psalm, written by David, was intended to be used in Israel's worship services, possibly spoken by a Levitical choir or by its leader.

The psalm itself has three main sections.

**Section 1: Read vv. 1-6. *David sees God's hand in creation.***

1. What type of poetic structure appears in v. 1? What two verbs are used?

In the days when the psalms were written, people had no idea of what we call "natural laws." The Hebrews thought that everything in nature was due to the direct activity of God.

Have there been gains or losses (or both) in the scientific understanding of the universe today?

2. Verses 2-4a refer to "speech" and "voices". Where are the voices heard? What is their message?

3. **Read Romans 10: 16-19a**

Here Paul makes use of this psalm to make a point in a messianic context. What are the "voices" in Paul's message?

4. Verses 4b-6 paint a word picture of the sun and the heavens.  
In verse 4b, what does the "tent" represent? Who pitches the tent?

Why would this be significant to the Hebrews in the ancient Near East?

Why do mountains, oceans, the sun and stars move us as deeply as great art? The answer is because they *are* great art. Nature speaks to all without audible words. It is nonverbal communication that there is a God, that the work is not an accidental collection of molecules but the meaningful work of an artist's hands. ... [a]ll people know, at some level, about God, truth, meaning, wisdom, and beauty, even if they suppress that knowledge. Timothy Keller. *The Songs of Jesus*. (New York: Viking, 2015) p. 32.

**Section 2: Read Psalm 19: 7-11. *David sees God in the Word.***

5. In this section we see another feature of Hebrew poetry – the use of a variety of words all meaning practically the same thing.

List six words that mean “the Word of God” in verses 7-9. (Note: these may be different in different translations).

(Note: The “fear of the Lord” can be read as “the sum of what the law requires’.)

Now list six adjectives (one for each of the nouns above) that describe the Word of God.

Finally list four things that the Word accomplishes in us.

6. In verse 10, how does David describe the value of God’s Word?

Why is God’s Word so valuable? (according to David)

**Section 3: Read Psalm 19: 12-14. *David sees God in personal experience.***

7. David prays for forgiveness in verses 12 and 13. For what is he asking forgiveness?

**Read Psalm 139: 23-24.**

8. David ends this poem with a prayer. He calls God “Lord”, “Rock”, and “Redeemer”. Why is he able to do this?