

Psalm 19

“There is no book of the Bible to which I have devoted as much labor as to the Psalms. And yet, I must openly admit that I do not know whether I have the accurate interpretation of the psalms or not. The Spirit reserves much for Himself, so that we may always remain His pupils. There is much that He reveals only to lure us on, much that He gives only to stir us up” - Martin Luther

Psalm 19:1-14: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat. 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 forever; 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 Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back

Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Structure of Psalm 19

- 1-6: God's General Revelation
 - God in the world
 - Look up
- 7-11: God's Special Revelation
 - God in the Scriptures
 - Look down
- 12-14: The Believer's Response
 - God in our lives
 - Look within

Psalm 19:1-2: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

Romans 1:20: For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

The Cosmological Argument: The universe had a beginning, and therefore, a cause.

Hebrews 11:3: By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

S - Second Law of Thermodynamics

U - the Universe is Expanding

R - Cosmic Radiation

G - Great Galaxy Seeds

E - Einstein's Theory of Relativity

“Now we see how the astronomical evidence supports the Biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and Biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy. Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact.” - Robert Jastrow, NASA Scientist and founding director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Psalm 19:3: There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Psalm 19:3 (NIV): They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 14:1 and 53:1: The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

Psalm 19:4-6: In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Genesis 1:14-19: Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Teleological (Fine-Tuning) Argument: The design we observe in our universe points towards the existence of an intelligent designer

“When thus they would suddenly gain sight of the earth, seas, and the sky; when they should come to know the grandeur of the clouds and the might of the winds; when they should behold the sun and should learn its grandeur and beauty as well as its power to cause the day by shedding light over the sky; and again, when the night had darkened the lands and they should behold the whole of the sky spangled and adorned with stars; and when they should see the changing lights of the moon as it waxes and wanes, and the risings and settings of all these celestial bodies, their courses fixed and changeless throughout all eternity—when they should behold all these things, most certainly they would have judged both that there exist gods and that all these marvelous works are the handiwork of the gods.” - Aristotle, *On Philosophy*

“Stephen Hawking estimates that a decrease in the expansion rate of even one part in a hundred thousand million million one second after the Big Bang would have resulted in the universe’s recollapse long ago; a similar increase would have precluded the galaxies’ condensing out of the expanding matter.” - William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*

Other conditions governing a planet's life-permitting status:

1. Atmospheric water vapor levels: too high would create a runaway greenhouse effect
2. Length (time) of the Earth's rotation: too long and the temperature difference between day and night would be too severe; too short and winds would be too strong
3. Thickness of the Earth's crust: too thick and atmospheric oxygen levels would be too high; too thin and volcanic/tectonic activity would be too severe).

"Astrophysicist Hugh Ross has calculated the probability that these and other constants - 122 in all - would exist today *for any planet in the universe* by chance. Assuming there are 10^{22} planets in the universe his answer is shocking: one chance in 10^{138} . There are only 10^{70} atoms in the entire universe. In effect, there is zero chance that any planet in the universe would have the life-supporting conditions we have, *unless* there is an intelligent Designer behind it all." - Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*

Psalm 19:7-8: 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.

God's commands cause us to see things clearly.

1. We see him clearly (Ex 34:6)
2. We see our own hearts clearly (Rom 7:7)
3. We see others clearly (Luke 6:41-42)
4. We see our situations clearly (Ps 73:16-17)

Psalm 19:9-11: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; 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 Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Joshua 1:8: This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Psalm 19:12-13: Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Ezekiel 36:26-27: And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Psalm 19:14: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.