

PSALM 19 – The Revelations of God! (Part 1 of 3)

INTRODUCTION – Deism teaches us that God created the world and went to sleep. God lets the wind wind down on its own without any more intervention from Him. It is like a man who winds a mechanical clock to its maximum and then lets the clock unwind on its own until it stops. Therefore Deism rejects any form of God's intervention in the affairs of man. Deists are not atheists, for they believe in the existence of God. However, this God that deists believe in is far and remote and cannot be contacted because He did not contact man and did not leave behind His contact number for man to contact Him! The implication is that if God did not contact man, then there is no special revelation, i.e. the Word of God. It also means that there were no miracles done on this earth; to say that there were miracles means that God intervened in the affairs of man. All that we know about Christ and Christianity are rejected by deists. Psalm 19 defends the existence and revelation of God to mankind. God did not leave man alone to fend for himself. Instead, He said that He will never leave man comfortless. There will never be a time in man's existence whereby God is not near him. Special revelation from God makes this truth a great blessing to all mankind. But before there was special revelation, there was general revelation.

General revelation is creation. Just as deists deny and wish away the presence of God on earth, evolutionists and atheists deny and wish away the existence of God in creation. God has revealed Himself to the world through His creation. This is known as the general revelation of God. General revelation is sufficient to condemn everyone on this earth to Hell but not enough to save anyone from Hell to Heaven. This truth is revealed to us in Romans 1. This truth is elaborated in detail in Psalm 19. The revelations of God scream loud and clear in Psalm 19 and one has to be deaf not to hear the voice of God throughout the world day and night without end. God's voice is loud and clear if only man would open his ears to hear and his eyes to see.

Therefore, Psalm 19 is especially rich in the understanding of the one living and true God through His revelations.

A. General Revelation (19:1-6) – Without an ounce of apology, the LORD clearly and boldly states that the heavens declare the glory of God. God as man's Creator is not begging man to accept and see that He exists. He tells man in no uncertain terms that He exists! When man looks up and all around him, He is supposed to see the glory of God. The word "glory" refers to "splendor and honour." It is something that is visible to the naked eyes; this person or thing is glorious like the glorified body. Such is the case here in that the heavens declare the visible glory of God. **Roman s 1:20 (KJV) puts it this way**, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:20 teaches that the heavens reveal the truth that God's power is eternal, i.e. his omnipotence is emphasized and He exists, i.e. His Godhead! The existence of an all powerful God is the message that the heavens declare. Sinful man ignores this message of God to his own peril. God says that man will be without excuse when he is judged and condemned by God on the Day of Judgement.

Using synonymous parallelism, the psalmist drives home the point of God's eternal and powerful existence so that man must take note of this very urgent truth. "The firmament sheweth His handywork." The "firmament" separates the waters below from the waters above (in Genesis 1:7-8) and God called this firmament "sky". Literally, it refers to the visible arch of the sky above the earth. The word "sheweth" has the idea of one who announces by word of mouth to one present." The emphasis is a face to face declaration. If it is a face to face declaration, how can anyone say that he does not know or hear?! The handywork of God is His workmanship like a handyman who fixes things around the house. He leaves behind a trail of the works that he has done throughout his life. In this case, the handywork of God is in His creation all around us. It is seen in the heavens when we look up. It is seen on earth when we look all around us.

The handywork of God is seen and heard day and night (verse 2). With every passing day creation speaks to us about the Creator. The birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, the beasts that run on land and the amphibians that swim and crawl are all

evidences of a designer. This designer is none other than our Creator. The message is non-stop throughout the day. There is not a day when the message of the Creator is not heard by man. This continues on into the night when creation still declares, i.e. announces, the presence of the powerful God. The word for "sheweth" in verse two is different from the one in verse one. The word "sheweth" in verse one emphasizes the "face to face" or "in the presence" declaration; whereas the word "sheweth" in verse two emphasizes merely "the act of declaration." The message is very pointed and full of knowledge if only man would read and understand. It is not hard to see or understand. It is openly, freely and simply made known to every man regardless of whether one lives in the jungle or the heart of a modern city - the presence of the powerful Creator is seen and heard throughout the day and night.

The handywork of God is also heard day and night and in a language that everyone understands (verse 3). The language is universal. Regardless of which era or the nationality, the message is easily understood. One does not have to go to any particular school or to be born in a particular place before he can understand the message of God's existence. A man may have been born and lived on an island all his life without any contact or communication with the outside. He may have never gone to school all his life but by looking all around him he would be able to see the existence of God. He can hide in the caves or may be buried in the deepest part of the ocean - the message of God is still with him. The moment he comes into this world and grows to discern between his left and right hand, he can see and hear the message of God.

"Their line is gone out through all the earth" means that their message is sent forth and covers every inch of planet earth. There is not one tiny little bit of real estate that one could stand on or hide in where the message of God does not reach and touch! From the largest creature to the smallest microbe, they utter the message that God exists and He is powerful! The message of creation is able to reach one end of the world to the other! "In them hath he [God] set a tabernacle for the sun" means that the earth is like a tabernacle (a dwelling place) for the sun. It is as if the sun lives inside the earth when the sun sets and then when morning comes, the sun rises from the horizon as if it comes from inside the earth! This is picture language from the perspective of mortal man whenever the sun sets and rises every day. The illustration is likened to that of a bridegroom coming out his chamber. He is extremely happy and full of joy as every bridegroom ought to be after his first night of marriage. He is very happy to be finally married to his bride to whom he has been betrothed perhaps since birth. The second illustration used to describe the sunrise is that of a strong man ready to run a race. He is well prepared and full of confidence that he will complete and win his race. The sun rises with full confidence as she shines forth her rays driving away the darkness and bathing the earth with glorious and bright rays. Like the strong man who is confident of completing the race, the sun will rise and shine until the time of the sunset.

The rays of the sun begin for the beginning, i.e. the end of the heaven (verse 6). No matter how far or distant the sun is from the earth, its rays will reach the earth. Not only will they reach the earth but they will cover every part of the earth. The greatness of the light of the sunrise and sunset and the extent of global coverage alone are sufficient to reveal to man that God exists and He is powerful! The word "circuit" means "a revolution." This means that the sun will rise and set at will and will cover one end of the earth to another, leaving not one part of the earth uncovered by the rays of the sun. The heat of the sun is the best testimony and evidence that every inch of planet earth is reached, from the North to the South Pole.

If the message of God through creation is so clear, then why is it that man all over the world and throughout the ages worship idols instead of the one living and true God? The reason is that man is totally depraved and a terrible sinner. The fact that man is not able to see and hear the message of God through creation even though it is so clear to him is evidence that man is totally depraved from the moment he comes out of his mother's womb. The problem is NOT with God's message through creation but man's state of depravity which prevents him from seeing and hearing the message. Since man has this insatiable desire to worship and he is not able to see and hear the message of God through creation, he worships the works of his own hands and makes God into his own image. He worships the creatures rather than the Creator. Does this mean that creation is insufficient and that God is at fault? God forbid. The message is clear and is still present for every believer who is truly born again to see and hear this message from God in creation. The disqualification came about because of man's first parent, Adam, who failed the test of the covenant of works in Genesis 2 and 3. Adam's failure resulted in the fall of every man, woman and child because he was man's representative. This truth is evidenced by the fact that we all die. Man is born into world condemned because he is born a sinner. That is why he is not able to see and hear the message of God that is broadcasted day and night and covers every corner of the earth. It is man's fault and not God's fault that man is blind and deaf!

[to be continued]