

God Has Spoken. Are You Listening?

Psalm 19

Sermon by James T. Bartsch, delivered June 1, 2014

- A. God Has Spoken in the Heavens. Psalm 19:1-6.** About God and His Message:
1. God is very much interested in communicating with **us humans**.
 - a. God loves to communicate (Pic of Tahrir Square, Cairo)
 2. He has left a record of His **glory** and His **craftsmanship** in the sky. **19:1**
 - a. 1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
 - b. And their expanse is telling of the work of His hands.
 - c. God's glory. (Pic of Carina Nebula)
 - d. God's craftsmanship (Pic of Composite Solar System)
 3. God is a **persistent** communicator. He repeats this message day after day and night after night. **19:2**
 - a. 2 Day to day pours forth speech,
 - b. And night to night reveals knowledge.
 - c. Day after day - Sunrise (pic of sunrise at sea)
 - d. Night after night - Moonrise (pic of moon rising)
 4. God is a **subtle** communicator. His message has no sound track – just video. You have to concentrate to pick up the plot. **19:3**
 - a. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
 - b. Their voice is not heard.
 - c. Silent Message (Pic of Globular Star Cluster NGC 6397)

5. God's message is for **all people**. People all over the globe have access to His communication, no matter where they live. **19:4a**
 - a. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
 - b. And their utterances to the end of the world.
 - c. Message for all people. (Pic of Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa at night)

6. The most prominent feature of God's message is the **sun**. **19:4b-6**
 - a. **Ps. 19:4b:** In them has He placed a tent for the sun,
 - b. Most prominent feature (Pic of sun: Sun emits Mid-Level Flare)
 - c. The sun is excited about his journey across the sky each day. **19:5**
 - 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
 - 1) As excited as a groom on his wedding day: (Pic of Bride and Groom tags)
 - 2) 5b It rejoices as a strong man to run his course (Pic of Michael Johnson: "Michael Johnson, Sprinter – World Record holder – 400 meters) (Gold medal winner, 1996 and 2000 Olympics; 200 meter winner, 1996 Olympics)
 - 3) (Pic of Usain Bolt, Jamaica, World's fastest man) (Gold medal winner of 100 meters and 200 meters in 2008 and 2012 Olympics)
 - 4) It is a world-wide message. **19:6a**
 - a) 6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
 - b) And its circuit to the other end of them;
 - 5) It is a powerful message – no one can ignore its heat. **19:6b**
 - a) And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7. People must **choose** to receive God's message from the Heavens.
 - a. Or they can choose to ignore it.
 - b. Or reject and distort it.
8. All will be held **responsible** for it. They have no excuse.
 - a. All are responsible. **Romans 1:18-20**
 - 1) 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
 - 2) 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.
 - 3) 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, **so that they are without excuse.**
9. Have YOU heard God speak? (Pic of eyes and galaxy)
10. Have you asked someone else if they have listened? (Pic of galaxy and a woman talking)

B. God Has Spoken in His Word. Psalm 19:7-11 (Pic of open Bible)

1. **Perfect Speech** (Pic of Torah scroll) **Psalm 19:7a**
 - a. 7a The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul
 - 1) Perfect means "Blameless, without defect"
 - 2) Do you let God's Word restore your soul? (Pic of woman thinking)
 - a) It requires TIME
 - b) You must be INTENTIONAL about it
 - c) You must be PERSISTENT at reading God's Word

2. **Reliable** Speech (Pic of Torah scroll) **19:7b**
 - a. 7b ... The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
 - 1) Sure means “Reliable; trustworthy”
 - 2) Simple means “Naïve, not “street smart” in living
 - b. If you spend time in God’s Word (Pic of guy reading Bible)
 - 1) You will be less likely to make unwise choices.
3. **Righteous** Speech (Pic of Torah scroll) **19:8a**
 - a. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
 - 1) Right means “upright”
 - b. If you follow God’s Word (Pic – Silhouette of woman on hilltop)
 - 1) You will have a clear conscience
 - 2) You will have more joy.
4. **Pure** Speech (Pic of Torah scroll) **19:8b**
 - a. ... The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes
 - 1) Pure means “clean, innocent”
 - 2) God’s Word helps me ...
 - a) So I can see clearly.
 - b) and know what steps to take in my life.
5. **Clean, Eternal** Speech. (Pic of Mt. Sinai) **19:9a**
 - a. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
 - 1) The giving of the LAW at Mt. Sinai was a fearful event.
 - 2) Clean means “clean, pure”
 - 3) Enduring forever means “It takes a stand always”

- b. God's Word:
 - 1) God's Word is uncontaminated by worldly, secular, diabolical thinking.
 - 2) Am I afraid to disobey it?
 - 3) Will I take a stand with and alongside of God's Word?
 - 4) Or will I be silent, or at best wishy washy?

6. **True and Righteous** Speech (Pic of Mt. Sinai) **19:9b**

- a. ... The judgments of the LORD are true;
- b. They are righteous altogether.
- c. True means "The embodiment of truth and reliability"
- d. Righteous means "The right and fair thing to do."
- e. If I follow God's Word...
 - 1) My actions will be based on something that is true and reliable.
 - 2) What I do will be the right and fair thing to do.

7. **Desirable** Speech. **19:10**

- a. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
- b. More desirable than gold (Pic of gold coins)
- c. Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
- d. Sweeter than honey (Pic of bees and honeycomb)
- e. Is God's Word better than ...
 - 1) winning the lottery? (Pic of lottery winner)
- f. Is God's Word better than ...
 - 1) eating your favorite dessert? (Pic of chocolate dessert with raspberries)

8. **Valuable Speech. 19:11**

- a. 11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned (Pic of civil defense siren)
- b. In keeping them there is great reward. (Pic of helicopter rescue)

C. A Prayer of Response. Psalm 19:12-14 (Pic of man sitting and praying)

1. For Preservation from **Evil 19:12-13**

a. For **Forgiveness. 19:12**

- 1) 12 Who can discern *his* errors?
- 2) Acquit me of hidden *faults*.

b. For **Preservation. 19:13**

- 1) 13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous *sins*;
- 2) Let them not rule over me;
- 3) Then I will be blameless,
- 4) And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

2. That God will **accept** my worship. **19:14**

- a. 14 Let the words of my mouth
- b. and the meditation of my heart
- c. Be acceptable in Your sight,
- d. LORD my rock and my Redeemer.

3. My response

- a. God's Word will lead me to confess my sins.
- b. God's Word will cause me to pray to be preserved from sinning.
- c. God's Word will give me faith to keep living a holy life.
- d. I pray that God will find my worship acceptable.

4. God has spoken in the heavens. (Pic of nighttime sky)
 - a. Have you heard the message? (Same pic of nighttime sky)
5. God has spoken through His word. (Pic of open Bible)
 - a. Are you taking time to listen? (Same pic of open Bible)
6. Are you making adjustments (Pic of plumber and pipe wrench)
 - a. in the way you are living?
 - b. and the way you are praying?
7. (Closing composite pic of stars and man reading Bible)
8. Closing Prayer