

PSALM 19 vs 1

¹ **The heavens declare** / the heavens are telling; the heavens are rehearsing again and again,

the glory of God / they are?! Where?

and the firmament / and the expanse; literally, **the spreading out...** the expanding starry heavens. How did this psalmist know the universe was expanding?

the spreading out... shows His handiwork / it is displaying His handiwork; the Creator's handiwork.

² **Day after day utters speech** / a better translation is: day after day – **constantly telling forth**; constantly speaking; constantly prophesying. They're doing what? The stars are prophesying? When I look up there, all I see is: millions of pretty twinkling lights. The heavens are prophesying? Every day? I don't hear anything.

night after night shows knowledge / literally, **night after night breathing out information**. Where? I don't see it. Does anyone see it? What's this songwriter talking about?

Verse ³ **Yet there is no speech** / no speaking;

nor language / no words;

their voice / the voice of the heavens;

is not heard.

Verse ⁴ **Their line** / the heavens' measuring line, measuring for inheritance;

is gone out through all the earth / through all the created earth,

and their words / the heavens words; actually, the heavens teachings have gone;

to the end of the world / to the end of the habitable earth.

In them / in the heavens; in the teaching heavens;

He set a tabernacle for the sun / the Creator GOD did what? What does that mean? Literally,

He set a tent / a temporary house... **for the sun.**

You know, the signs of the Zodiac are called: the houses of the sun... because in them – in these houses, the sun moves and dwells and completes its circuit. We are learning about the 12 different constellations and the supportive stars that dot the sky and are part of the story. Genesis tells us, GOD created stars to be signs. And signs tell us something; they point us in a direction. Right?

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E. Raymond Capt in his study of the Zodiac, tells us the Zodiac is found in every country of the world. How did that happen? He tells us the most ancient meaning of the term *Zodiac* is: *The Way*. And he reminds us that nothing in the star groupings of the 12 constellations – the 12 signs of the Zodiac – even suggests the various figures. Yet it's a story that was taught long ago in all the nations ... starting with September's Virgo – the virgin. What virgin? Ending with August's Leo the lion. What victorious Leo the lion trampling on the Hydra – crushing the Serpent's head?

But back to verse 4

In the heavens GOD set a tent for the sun.

Verse 5 and as a Bridegroom coming out of His chamber / coming out of His starry bridal canopy. Who is this Bridegroom coming? And where's His bride? And when's the party? Don't you want to know? Did you get your invitation? Have you accepted the opportunity to dance with the Groom?

as a Bridegroom coming out of His chamber / coming out of His residence; His bridal canopy,

greatly rejoices / He is excited about something; the heavens are declaring all this. The Bridegroom is coming and He's coming rejoicing.

And He comes...

as a strong Man / like a valiant soldier-athlete;

as a strong Man running a race. / Hebrews says, *Looking unto Jesus, the Author and First runner -- the Pacesetter of Faith*. He is running a marathon of Faith.

His going forth is from the end of the heavens,

and His circuit... unto the ends of it:

Three other times in the Old Testament is that word: circuit... is used. It speaks of new life and new birth; it speaks of joy at the in-gathering of the harvest; but it also speaks of a time of turning and great sorrow.

His going forth is from the ends of the heavens,

and His circuit unto the ends of the heavens / the course of new life, of joy... of sorrow -- that He is running, starts from the ends of the heavens and finishes; this strong Man; this mighty Runner makes the whole trip!

and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof / there is nothing hid... from the heat of that Sun of Righteousness... going forth to enlighten our understanding and to know the truth; and by His Spirit who soften our hard hearts to love the truth; and like the Sun... nothing is hid from His influences.

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Verses 7 through 14 compare the written words in the scriptures with the written words about the heavens. And if we knew old Hebraic astronomical terms, we would recognize those six Zodiac terms in these verses. The word translated **returning** and **sure** and **enlightening** ... and the word **enduring** ... the word for **warned** ... and lastly **keeping** -- all ancient astronomical terms. And David, the Psalmist is telling us ... the heavens are telling the Glory of God.

And now, the word of God is telling us... the Glory of God.

Verse 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, **returning** / the Hebrew word is: *shub*; meaning... to turn back; to return; the law of God's love... is like the pull of gravity, returning;

the soul:

the testimony of the LORD is **sure** / in Hebrew: *aman*... is: to trust; to confirm and support; even, to nurture. Much like the faithful and enduring sun we see in the sky every day; so also, whatever God our Father says can be trusted,

making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right / they are equitable or just,

rejoicing the heart:

the commandment of the LORD is pure / and isn't that interesting? In English we read, command or order. We know, Moses was there when the Lord gave a covenant to His people spelled out in 10 commandments... and no more. Moses wrote: *man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. His commandment is pure* -- **Deuteronomy 5**. He could have given us 613 commands, rules, regulations? But He didn't; so do what He said...

We read...

the commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes** / in Hebrew: *ore*; Genesis 1:15 tells us the reason the sun and the moon were created was to give light upon the earth. God likes to turn lights on; and dispel darkness. Whenever God speaks, His good words are always **enlightening the eyes**... the eyes of our hearts.

9 The fear of the LORD is cleansing, **enduring forever**: / in Hebrew: *amad*; it means... to stand and not be moved. Joshua 10:13 speaks of the longest day when the sun stood still. Isaiah says those who fear the Lord need not run and hide. Paradoxically, those who fear Him will also discover He is a sanctuary -- a place of safety to run to in trouble.

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous / altogether, completely faithful; this verse was the last of several verses Abraham Lincoln, perhaps the last great president of the United States – the only nation in history that built its national life on the word of God; had enough sense to quote in his 2nd inaugural address.

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¹⁰ More to be desired than gold,

yes, than much fine gold.

GOD's law and witness; His precepts and commandment; His fear and judgments are

sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover in them Your servant is warned / the word is: *zahar*... it means: to enlighten, to admonish. Daniel 12:3 says, those who are wise... the people who know the ways of God... and who teach others to be wise... will shine... like stars in the expanding heavens:

and in keeping them great is the reward / this word is: *shamar*; the psalmist uses a word he knew best... as he shepherded sheep. Here David says, in guarding them, in watching closely... to protect the word and ways of God. In Genesis 2, this was the first assignment God gave Adam... *to dress and keep the garden*; Isaiah speaks of the watchmen of the night... keeping alert on their assignment; in Revelation 3, it is the same assignment Jesus gives to His church in Philadelphia, the church of brotherly love: *to watch and protect the words of His endurance*... until He returns; and to those who will do this, Jesus gives a special promise. The psalmist wants us to *observe the ways of God*.

Even Matthew wrote the last words of Jesus to His disciples: Teaching one another *to observe ALL He commanded us*. They all are saying the same thing: we are to observe the Lord's words... like we observe the starry heavens. And in observing the many things He said...

and in keeping them great is the reward.

¹² Who can understand errors? / a better translation:

Who can discern wanderings? / like the stars up there... wandering through the heavens, or like the nations and so many individuals down here... just wandering through this darkness and desolation.

Cleanse me from my secret things. / Hmm? Clear me; acquit me, release me of the secret things; the hidden things; the things that are not discerned.

¹³ Keep back Your servant from presumptuousness / restrain me from my presumptuous tendencies to take upon myself without leave or warrant – without permission. Restrain me in my habit of going beyond what is right and proper;

let that not have dominion over me / let my presumptuous tendencies not rule me:

then I will be held upright / with the help of God our Father,

and I will be innocent of *much* transgression.

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14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,

be acceptable in Your sight / a better translation:

come with acceptance before You,

O LORD, my Strength / literally,

O LORD, my solid Rock, and my Redeemer.

The apostle Paul in Romans 3 says, all ... ALL of us fall short—and continue to fall short of the Glory of God.

The apostle John wrote: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we beheld -- we *paid attention to His Glory*, the glory such as from the only Begotten of the Father – full of grace and full of truth.

And....

This One,

this Bridegroom coming,

this strong Man running

He is who the heavens
are declaring -- day after day...

to Him be the glory.

Our Rock, Our solid Rock

and our Redeemer.