

## How God Reveals His Glory

Psalm 19

Pastor Danny Lee

November 30, 2014

### DEBATING EVOLUTION AND CREATION<sup>1</sup>

On February 4, 2014 at least three million viewers tuned in to watch a live debate over Evolution vs. Creation between “Bill Nye the Science Guy” and Ken Ham, founder and president of the apologetic ministry *Answers in Genesis*. The topic of the debate was, “Is creation a viable model of origins in today’s modern scientific era?” and was held at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY. The event was broadcast live stream through thousands of venues including home computers, churches, and school campuses. The debate can still be viewed on YouTube or [debatelive.org](http://debatelive.org).

The debate was moderated by Tom Foreman of CNN, with interviews on *Piers Morgan Live* and *Nightline* following. The issues surrounding evolution/creation continue to be hot-button topics in our culture. As the gap widens between the scientific and religious communities, many Christians find themselves defending the Bible’s teaching on creation while modern scientists debate and dismiss the possibility of a Creator. For decades, the theory of evolution has been and continues to be, the primary position upheld by modern science in response to the Church’s conviction of Creation. The battle has raged in both the courtroom and class room. In recent years, the theory of Intelligent Design has come onto the scene challenging evolutionary theories, but not fully supporting the Biblical creation account.

The nature of the debate was summed up by Ken Ham when he stated, “*Creationists and evolutionists disagree on how to interpret data regarding the origins of our universe, and we can’t prove either way observationally, because all we’ve got is the present. When it comes down to it, this is a battle over philosophical worldviews.*”

### EXISTENCE OF GOD

*Why does studying origins matter?* It is a matter of **faith**. As the scientific community debates the origins of the universe, the evidence of God and His self-revelation is made obvious and clearly communicated through His written Word. We don’t study science to prove the Bible, but studying science will affirm the Bible’s proof for your faith. Studying both nature and Scripture provides ample testimony, not only to the existence of God, but a description of God Himself. God makes Himself known through His creation and His Word so that you can have a unique relationship with this Creator God. The Psalms are an extraordinary collection and amplification of God’s character and actions with mankind. Studying the Psalms often answers three questions:

- 1) *what does God reveal about Himself*
- 2) *what does God reveal about man*
- 3) *what does God expect of man*

Psalm 19 is one of the most poetically profound psalms summarizing how God reveals His glory to man. C.S. Lewis described it as “*the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.*”<sup>2</sup> Like Psalm 1 and 119, these three psalms precede Messianic Psalms (2, 20, 120), as if anticipating the glory to be found in Jesus our Messiah. In Psalm 19 several attributes of God are revealed: *self-existence, glory, majesty, sovereignty, power, self-revelation, wisdom, design.*

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-vs-evolution/over-3-million-tuned-in-live-for-historic-bill-nye-and-ken-ham-evolutioncreation-debate/>

<sup>2</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*, p.63

Psalm 19 is often described as containing two great books (nature/world and Scripture/Word) bound in one memorable poem. Spurgeon stated, “*He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, ‘My Father wrote them both.’*”<sup>3</sup> This psalm proclaims how God makes His glory known to all mankind so that you might respond to His majesty. YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE PRIZE OF KNOWING GOD’S GLORY THROUGH TWO SPECTACULAR DISPLAYS OF HIS GLORY.

## I. GOD’S GLORY IN HIS CREATION [vs.1-6]

<sup>HCSB</sup> **PSALM 19:1 FOR THE CHOIR DIRECTOR. A DAVIDIC PSALM.** *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.* <sup>2</sup> *Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.* <sup>3</sup> *There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard.* <sup>4</sup> *Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.* <sup>5</sup> *It is like a groom coming from the bridal chamber; it rejoices like an athlete running a course.* <sup>6</sup> *It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their other end; nothing is hidden from its heat.*

### GOD’S GLORY IS CONTINUOUSLY SHOUTED BY CREATION

David begins his Psalm with the revelation of God’s glory through His creation. He uses the general name for God, *El*, which signifies His Almighty power and recalls Gen.1:1, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” David highlights the expansive universe (stars, planets, galaxies) and visible sky above as the first line of evidence to God’s glorious existence.

Like a messenger giving a report from his superior, it is the duty of creation to exclaim God’s majestic glory. The words “declare” and “proclaim” mean a continuous revelation by the heavens to glorify God’s.<sup>4</sup> Even the vastness of space demonstrates the glorious wisdom of God’s design. The testimony of nature reveals God’s royal majesty, His powerful sovereignty and clear existence, requiring a response of His recognition.

*“This is the meaning of **glory** in Psalm 19 – a revelation of God’s existence and power so great that it should lead every human being on the face of the earth to seek God out, to thank him for bringing him or her into existence, and to worship him.”*<sup>5</sup>

### GOD’S GLORY IS UNIVERSALLY HEARD BY EVERYONE

Everyday nature is bubbling forth with praise to God. There is an uninterrupted line of transmission being carried out by God’s creation to His people. At the dawn of every morning, creation’s message is relayed throughout the day’s events. As the sun sets on the horizon, nighttime picks up the daily broadcast and continues the nightly programming, like a TV station streaming live into every home.

Its speech is like a “gushing spring”<sup>6</sup> which never runs dry or diminishes in drought years. Even though creation is without actual words, its language is universal.<sup>7</sup> “*Their line of speech...all the earth; their voice...end of the globe*” explains its universal message to all people, and vs. 4 can be rightly understood as “*where their voice is not heard.*”

<sup>3</sup> C.H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, Vol.1 Psalm I to XXVI, p.269

<sup>4</sup> Frank Gaebelien, gen.ed., *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, vol.5, p.178-182

<sup>5</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms*, vol.1, p.162

<sup>6</sup> Boice, 162

<sup>7</sup> Gaebelien, 179

ESV **Romans 1:19-20** “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

The sun is 330,330 times larger than the earth.<sup>8</sup>

Summer on Uranus lasts for 21 years – but so does winter.

All the planets in the solar system rotate counter-clockwise; except Venus, it is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Earth orbits the sun at an average speed of 29.79 km/s (18.51 miles/sec), or about 107 000 km/h (about 67,000 miles/hour).

One year on earth is 365.26 days long. One day is 23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds long.

The ozone layer averages about 3 millimeters (1/8 inch) thick.

There are more than 326 million trillion gallons of water on Earth.

The grand testimony of God’s creation is intended to make you feel small and fall silent next to its proclamations. The next time you study the stars or individual design of fingerprints, pause to wonder at the magnificent blueprint of His creation.

#### GOD’S GLORY IS RADIANTLY EXPRESSED IN THE SUN

The pinnacle of natural revelation for man is the sun. It reflects the awesome brilliance and extensive power of God’s glory. “*The sun is an example of obedience to the direction the Lord has set for it.*”<sup>9</sup> This metaphor compares the sun to a bridegroom who emerges from his wedding chamber, vigorously anticipating the new life set before him as he makes his bride his own. Like a hero, or champion athlete, the sun runs its course in a brilliant display of glory and honor.

Psalm 19:5 compares the sun rising in its strength to a bridegroom coming out of his canopy. This expresses the joy of youthful love as the groom anticipates a new life with his bride, perhaps specifically referring to the sun's course as a happy wedding procession.<sup>10</sup>

Verse 6 links the connection between God’s **General Revelation** through His creation to His **Special Revelation** of His Word. Scripture, like the sun, is penetrating, life-giving, searching, testing and purifying. “*If we value nature, we should value the Bible even more, and equally important, we should make it the object of our most careful, searching, devout, thankful, and obedient meditation every day.*”<sup>11</sup>

*Why does general revelation matter?* The testimony of General Revelation offers three proofs:

- The proof of CREATION [Psa.19:1-6; Rom.1:19-20; Acts 17:22ff]
- The proof of MAN’S CONSCIENCE [Rom.1:21-22, 32; 2:14-15]
- The proof of a CREATOR [Heb.3:4; Psa.24:1-6; 104]

<sup>8</sup> <http://didyouknow.org/fastfacts/earth/>

<sup>9</sup> Willilam Barrick, “Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis” notes, Psalm 19 translation

<sup>10</sup> Harris, et als, *Theological Wordbook of the OT*, 710 עֲצֻפָה

<sup>11</sup> Boice, 166

General Revelation is enough to provide universal accountability of everyone to God as Creator. As Romans 1:18ff explains, it is willful resistance to this revelation that condemns people before God as Judge. General Revelation cannot save you, but it points to God's Special Revelation and subsequent salvation.

## II. GOD'S GLORY IN HIS WORD [vs.7-11]

<sup>HCSB</sup> **PSALM 19:7** *The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up. <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous. <sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold—than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey, which comes from the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> In addition, Your servant is warned by them; there is great reward in keeping them.*

### GOD'S WORD IS TO BE COMPLETELY OBEYED

There is a distinctive turn as David goes from describing the glory of God in His world to the glory in His Word. Volume 2 of this poetic work is the Special Revelation of God's glory through His written Word. God's Word is greater than General Revelation because it is personally given by Him, being clearer and more comprehensive. The Apostle Peter, who was an eye-witness of the majestic glory of God with Jesus Christ, affirms the better testimony of God's written Word.

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 PETER 1:19** *“And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*

The variety of descriptions about God's Word emphasizes how ALL the words of the Lord are to be obeyed. These various expressions display God's perfect wisdom as detailed revelation to man. Obedience to God's Word causes *integrity, loyalty, purity, and growth in righteousness.*<sup>12</sup>

- LAW, “instruction”; *“It has to do with everything God has revealed or says.”*
- TESTIMONY, “statutes”; *“It means an aspect of truth attested by God Himself.”*
- PRECEPTS, COMMANDMENT, “order”; *“the precision and authority with which God addresses us.”*
- FEAR, the effect Scripture produces in its adherents
- RULES, “ordinances”, “judgments”, “verdict”; *“the divine evaluation of our thoughts and actions.”*<sup>13</sup>

### GOD'S WORD REFLECTS HIS PERFECT CHARACTER

Where David appropriately used the general name of *God* in the beginning of the psalm to represent His almighty power, he now uses His personal name, *Yahweh*, as revealed to Moses. David uses this name 7x to convey how personally God reveals Himself to us. The distinctions of His word are based in His character: *perfect, sure, right, pure, clean and true.*

---

<sup>12</sup> Gaebelien, 181-182

<sup>13</sup> Boice, 170-172

Such a personal, written revelation of *Yahweh* God was so unique and foreign to other nations, who could only guess at what their gods wanted or expected.

**Deuteronomy 4:5-8** *“See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>6</sup> Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ <sup>7</sup> For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? <sup>8</sup> And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?”*

## GOD’S WORD BRINGS VALUABLE TRANSFORMATION

The total affect of God’s Word upon you is LIFE- TRANSFORMING. *“Special revelation is the active agent in bringing about conversion.”*<sup>14</sup> The quality of God’s Word brings about specific, active change within you. There is a progressive affect it has upon your life that is holistic in perfecting righteousness. This is where you see how, as Paul explains, *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”* (2 Tim.3:16-17)

- REVIVING/CONVERTING SOUL, *“being perfect means being so complete as to cover every aspect of life.”*
- MAKING NAÏVE WISE, *“the one who is open enough to God’s instructions to do that will become wise.”*
- REJOICING HEART, *“walking in a straight path or in an upright manner brings joy.”*
- ENLIGHTENING EYES, *“illuminates a right life path enables us to walk in it without stumbling.”*
- ENDURING FOREVER, *“the Word of God is entirely pure, being without any deficiency, error, fault, or inadequacy...is the most enduring of all things.”*
- COMPLETELY RIGHTEOUS, *“the servants of God are warned by them and the keepers of them are rewarded.”*<sup>15</sup>

*Do you believe and use the sufficiency of the Scriptures in your daily life? Are you being progressively transformed according to the nature of the Word and into the character of your Master? Believing and living within the Design of God’s created order means living by His special revealed will both in the written Word and the revealed WORD.*

JESUS CHRIST is the **FINAL WORD** and **COMPLETE REVELATION** of God’s glory to man. It is what we celebrate at Christmas and it is Who you ascribe glory and majesty to. Creation is not to be worshiped and the Book is not to be worshiped (John 5:39), both point to Jesus Christ who is to be worshiped!

**John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*

---

<sup>14</sup> Barrick notes

<sup>15</sup> Boice, 173-174

**Hebrews 1:1-3** *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Why does special revelation matter? It provides three testimonies:

- The testimony of *Jesus Christ* [Jn.1:1-5, 14-18; Col.1:15-18; 1 Jn.5:20]
- The testimony of *God's Word* [2 Tim.3:16-17; 1 Jn.5:9-12; 2 Pet.1:21]
- The testimony of *God's works* [Psa.77:11-14]

### III. YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GLORY [vs.12-14]

<sup>HCSB</sup> **PSALM 19:12** *Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, keep Your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule over me. Then I will be innocent and cleansed from blatant rebellion.<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.*

#### PRAY FOR SIN TO BE EXPOSED

The proper response to God's revealing glory is a right recognition of personal sin. The closer you get to God and His glory, the more your sin is revealed. God doesn't simply dismiss your sins, He carefully exposes them to properly deal with them. It is through this process of confessing, forgiving and turning away from sin can you genuinely enjoy the experience of knowing God. The "errors" or unintentional sins are those of ignorance, not yet knowing how it is offensive to God [similar to a young child's ignorance]. The "hidden faults" are unknown sins which subtly hide themselves in the recesses of your heart, or disguise their motives so as not to be accurately perceived.

Secret sins are a stepping-stone toward the final sin, "presumptuous". These are the known, arrogant sins willfully committed. David was aware of God's statement on *presumptuous sins*, "*The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel*" (<sup>ESV</sup> Deuteronomy 17:12). Just like David, pray God will show you hidden sins to confess and keep you from the subtle pathway of death. As you go through this process, you reflect His glory and perfect character.

#### APPEAL TO YOUR REDEEMER

The only way to be found pleasing to God is to allow His glory to personally transform you. Responding to the glory of God will be reflected in your **verbal** and **non-verbal** communication in His presence. There is great reward in experiencing God's glory and knowing His saving protection for your life.

OPEN each day *beholding* God's glory in Creation and Christ.

LIVE each day with the *devotion* of a bridegroom and *determination* of an athlete.

CLOSE each day with *attitudes* and *actions* pleasing to Him.

## How God Reveals His Glory

Psalm 19

### GOD'S GLORY IN HIS CREATION [vs.1-6]

God's glory is continuously shouted by creation

God's glory is universally heard by everyone

God's glory is radiantly expressed in the sun

### GOD'S GLORY IN HIS WORD [vs.7-11]

God's Word is to be completely obeyed

God's Word reflects His perfect character

God's Word brings valuable transformation

### YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GLORY [vs.12-14]

Pray for sin to be exposed

Appeal to your Redeemer