

Psalm 19:1–6 | “Creation Speaks”

Preached on June 8, 2025 by Pastor Matt Brown (Church Picnic)

This morning, we are going to be looking at Psalm 19, verses 1–6, so if you have a Bible, you can turn there.

If not, that’s OK, as I’ll be reading it for you. *[pauseeee]*

Since our church picnic is outside, I often like to speak about something connected to the created world that God has made. *[pause]*

Our surroundings are like vivid illustrations that we can see right in this moment, as to what God is talking about in His Word.

You’ll see what I mean as I READ the passage for you—this is Psalm 19:1–6. *[READ]*

How does our world view the skies? *[pauseeee]*

For some of them, they use the heavens as some sort of guide to life, making use of horoscopes for life advice. *[pause]*

For others, they see the skies as being there by accident or chance...

They think that the sky, space, planets, and things like that just got there from a big bang, and a process of millions of years of evolution. *[pause]*

So some people see some sort of ‘influencing power’ in the skies, and others minimize the skies as something there by mere happenstance.

Yet how should we view the skies that we see everyday, according to the Bible? *[pause]*

Well we find in this passage that...

I. God’s glory is declared in Creation. (1–4a)

David says that “the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” *[pause]*

So what we learn is that God’s glory is *clearly declared* in the skies. *[pause]*

Now we know that Paul in Romans talks about how God’s invisible attributes are seen in *all* of creation,¹ but here the focus is primarily on the heavens and the sky.

That is, David is focused on how the sky, sun, moon, and stars declare the glory of God. *[pauseeee]*

¹ A reference to Romans 1:18–20.

So when you look up, you see the God, who is high above everything else. *[pause]*

You see God's majesty, splendor, greatness, and amazingness.

You see that God exists and He's mighty, for you are seeing His presence and power on display, witnessing His amazing handiwork. *[pauseeee]*

The world is truly a *creation*, it is God's handiwork on display for all to see.

And to think that the Fall has marred creation with weeds and things like that, so just imagine what it looked like before the Fall! *[pauseeeee]*

As you look around your house, you may see your handiwork in the house or furniture that you built, but when you look at the whole world, you are seeing *God's* handiwork. *[pause]*

The sun and moon that constantly remain in the sky—God's work. *[pause]*

The planets that we only have a limited knowledge about, and most are bigger than the Earth—God's achievement. *[pause]*

The stars that shine brightly in a dark, night sky, which are trillions of miles away from us—God's handiwork. *[pauseeee]*

We get so used to the *Creation* around us that we neglect to see how marvelous it really is, which highlights how even more marvelous the Creator is. *[pauseeee]*

Also, due to our scientific advancements, we feel as though the world is smaller, more understandable, more graspable, yet we must not lose a sense of awe. *[pauseeeee]*

The sky is declaring something, and that something is God. *[pause]*

Since the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims His handiwork, then they are pointing to something other than themselves. *[pauseeeee]*

Imagine an announcer in a sports game making the whole game about himself—it would be ridiculous...

An announcer is supposed to be talking about something or someone *else*. *[pause]*

So also, the heavens aren't meant to be an end in themselves, that we worship, but they were meant to be pointers to God, who made them. *[pauseeee]*

How often do you think of the sky as a proclaimer or announcer? For it is—it is declaring and proclaiming the glory of God. *[pauseeeee]*

Not only is God's glory clearly declared, but it's clearly declared *everyday*. *[pause]*

Verse 2 says, "Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge." *[pauseeee]*

By stating “day to day” and then “night to night” the psalmist is emphasizing that Creation speaks all day long, every single day and night. *[pause]*

The heavens have been declaring and proclaiming Him every single second of every single day, ever since the beginning of time. *[pause]*

The sky is *continually* proclaiming the handiwork of God...

There is not a single day that goes by that the heavens do not speak of God’s glory. *[pause]*

It’s not like an eclipse, which only happens on certain days in certain years, and if you miss it, you miss it.

No—God’s glory is revealed everyday in the sky! *[pauseee]*

You walk outside of your house on a Monday morning, it’s proclaiming. *[pause]*

You drive home late at night on a Thursday, and it’s declaring.

Speech is being expressed on a daily and nightly basis. *[pause]*

In fact, he says that speech is poured out, and knowledge is revealed. *[pauseeee]*

You cannot get around this fact—Creation is speaking about and revealing God, so do you want to know some things about God? Just look to Creation. *[pause]*

Paul actually says that “his eternal power and divine nature,” are plain to people in the things that He made.² *[pauseeeee]*

If someone said the same thing all day long, everyday, wouldn’t it be clear what they were saying?

Of course! It would be plain to everyone what was said.

So also, God is plainly revealed in Creation, and so people are without excuse.

Why? Because “day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge”! *[pauseeee]*

That word translated as ‘pours out’ really points to something that gushes out, emits, or bubbles forth, like a spring.

It’s like speech about who God is is constantly gushing out and being poured out onto the world so that it covers everything. *[pauseeeee]*

God is saying something to us through His world, and yet many people ignore it.

² See Romans 1:18–20.

As Romans 1 says, “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.”³ *[pause]*

They suppress the knowledge of God that is being spoken to them every single moment of every single day, all around them. *[pauseeeee]*

Now a question that may rise up in someone is this—how are the heavens speaking when there are no actual words?

It’s not like I look up to the sky and see a banner saying, “God is real!” *[pause]*

It’s not like I look up to the heavens and hear the words, “God is so powerful, isn’t He?” *[pause]*

Well verse 3 acknowledges that when it says, “There is no speech, nor are there words.” *[pause]*

The psalmist is saying that the heavens are speaking, but it’s not actual words being used—it’s wordless speech. *[pauseeee]*

Do you know how someone’s body language can speak volumes, even though they don’t say a word?

So also, Creation speaks volumes without a word. *[pauseeeee]*

The heavens are not silent, no matter how silent they may appear.

But this is also good news because it means that Creation’s speech is not hindered by language. *[pause]*

It’s not like the heavens speak only in English, Spanish, or French, and so those who can’t speak those languages are out of luck.

No, because the heavens speak without words, then God can be universally known by all people! *[pause]*

In fact, as verse 4 makes clear, “Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

So creation’s speech is not hindered by any language, geography, time, or culture barrier. *[pause]*

The glory of God being proclaimed in the heavens is proclaimed *everywhere!* *[pause]*

It’s not only heard in Pennsylvania, or Israel, or some other country, and that’s it, but it “goes out through all the earth,” even “to the end of the world.” *[pauseeeee]*

What’s interesting is that modern science claims to be all about open-mindedness to what they observe...

³ Romans 1:21.

Yet they are ignoring the most obvious, continual evidence that is being broadcasted all across the globe, every single moment of every single day—the glory of God. *[pauseeee]*

So David has told us generally that God's glory is declared in Creation, but now he will share with us an...

II. Example of God's glory in Creation: the Sun! (4b–6)

In our day, we don't talk too much about the sun.

It's just sort of there, everyday, in the background, giving us the sunlight and heat that we need. [pause]

Scientists may study it and try to explain it, and we admire it and are thankful when we look out and see that the sun is shining that day.

Yet throughout history, especially ancient history, there were people who worshipped the sun. [pause]

People became infatuated with it, since it was seen as giving the whole world light and heat, and would make this daily, orderly journey across the sky. *[pause]*

Well David's statements here certainly emphasize the sun, yet they are meant to show that the sun is not to be worshipped, for it merely is an example of God's glory. [pause]

There is One who is over the sun, and who is greater than the sun, for He is the One who made and controls the sun.

Therefore, the sun is not an end of worship in itself, but it is to lead us to worship God, who set it there. [pauseeee]

Verse 4 says, "In them he has set a tent for the sun," and when he says "in them," he means in the heavens or the sky. *[pause]*

Now this statement isn't meant to be taken literally and scientifically, where we say, "That's not right! The sun doesn't go to a literal tent at the end of the day!" [pause]

It's meant to merely show that God has set the dwelling place for the sun—He put it exactly where He wanted. *[pause]*

Not looking at the sun from the perspective of space, but from the perspective of a person on earth...

It looks like at the end of the day, the sun goes into its dwelling place, and then when a new day begins, the sun comes out of its tent and we see it again.

The most important thing here is that it's God who has set the place for the sun. [pause]

The sun didn't just magically appear one day...it didn't always exist, but rather, God set it there.
[pauseeee]

They say that the average distance of the sun from the earth is 93 million miles away, and its light can hurt your eyes, and its heat can make you burn. [pause]

The sun's core is said to be 27 million degrees hot, and the light that we see from it is just a fraction of the Sun's total energy output.

So how much more powerful, bright, glorious, and great is our God?! [pauseeee]

Not only has God set the sun in its place, but He has set up a course for the sun to run. [pause]

We are told here in this passage that "the sun...comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy...

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them." [pause]

The psalmist uses some different illustrations to speak about what the sun does on a daily basis...

First, the sun is like a bridegroom, bursting forth out of his chamber when it rises. [pause]

In that day, the groom would go out of his house to get his bride on the wedding day, and so the groom would burst out of his room in joy and excitement to claim his bride.

And that's what the sun is like every day...

It bursts onto the scene with radiance, joy, and excitement like a groom on his wedding day.
[pause]

As sure as that groom comes out of his house to get his bride, so the sun comes out in radiant glory to begin the day.

That's what God has made the sun to do every single day, without fail! [pause]

He has set the sun to burst from its place and to shine on us for our good.

So everytime that you look out and see that beautiful sunrise, you can think of it as if the sun is like a groom bursting out of his house in radiant excitement for the day. [pauseeee]

As the sun bursts forth in radiant joy, so God gives us the common grace of it shining upon us and so giving us joy. [pauseeee]

Not only that, but we also see another illustration: the sun is like a strong man running a race.
[pause]

A strong, athletic runner sets out with intentionality and purpose—they are focused on running the race set before them.

Meaning: they aren't distracted, nor do they take what they are about to do lightly. *[pause]*

So also, the sun sets out and goes along its path across the sky with a certain intentionality, for that's the way that God has made it to work. *[pause]*

It doesn't float all over the place haphazardly, so that you never know where the sun will be in the sky on that day.

In fact, it's by the sun that many travelers in the past could figure out which direction to go. *[pause]*

It's purposeful and intentional, and that just goes to show our purposeful and intentional God, who never works haphazardly. *[pause]*

You can trust His control, order, and purpose. *[pause]*

Every look at the purposeful path of the sun can be a reminder of our even more purposeful God, who does all things according to His good purpose. *[pauseeee]*

Note also that the psalm says that the sun is like a "strong man," and what it means is that it's like a great athlete, so it's not like the sun is like some weak, struggling person that's running.

No, the sun is like this strong man because it runs its course with power and strength. *[pauseeee]*

There aren't things that obstruct or deter it from continuing along its path, but it just continues along its path with a certain unhindered strength. *[pause]*

We never have to worry, "Do you think the sun will make it along its path today?"

But God has created it to go across the sky with a steady strength that is never impeded.

And so its strength points to the infinitely better strength of its Maker, the Lord. *[pause]*

He is mighty to save, mighty to work, mighty to do more than we could ever imagine.⁴

Do you rely on the strength of the God, who made the sun? *[pauseeeee]*

Also, David says that the sun is like a strong man, who runs its course *with joy*. *[pause]*

So the sun is like a strong athlete who loves to run his course and finish the race. *[pause]*

Every single day, the sun bursts onto the landscape, and it makes it look like it's coming out with joy, for another day has arrived.

And then it goes along its course, as if it were joyously running a race, for it never deters from its path, but every single day does the same thing. *[pauseeee]*

⁴ An allusion to Ephesians 3:20.

The psalmist is personifying the sun, as if to say, “Even the sun finds joy in the purpose for which God made it!”

Do we find joy in the purpose for which God created us—to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever?
[pauseeeee]

How often do we speak about the path of the sun, and how even that can point us to our God?
[pause]

As David points out, the sun’s circuit is from one end of the heavens to the other—it goes across the whole sky.

And the sun’s heat touches everything. [pause]

Nothing is hidden from the heat of the sun, but it radiates its heat all over the globe. [pauseeeee]

You know, often heat sources have a limited area of impact. [pause]

Your house’s heat source can only really heat your house, but it couldn’t heat your whole property, the yard and all. [pause]

It certainly couldn’t heat your neighborhood. [pause]

A fire pit outside can only heat up a limited area around it.

Yet God has provided the sun, which heats up the whole world, and that just goes to show once again His great power. [pauseeeee]

Yet the sun’s heat doesn’t just show His power, for it also shows *His goodness and grace*.
[pauseeee]

Do you realize that if we didn’t have the sun as a source of heat, that the Earth would be inhabitable? [pause]

I’m not sure exactly how accurate this is, but scientists say that within a few days without the sun, the temperature would plummet below freezing. [pause]

You might say, “Oh, I could make it then.”

Well just wait, for after a year, it would be negative 100 or even colder, and eventually the temperature would probably end up at about negative 400 degrees! [pauseeeee]

We need the sun’s heat, and the sun’s heat reaches all over the world. [pause]

The heat from the sun is a blessing to all of us, and it reflects His goodness and grace—He has given us what we need.

Do you remember how good and gracious God is, and how He provides for your needs? [pause]

He is not lacking in power or goodness, but just feel the heat of the sun, and be reminded of His goodness and power. *[pauseeee]*

You see, David is teaching us that the sun has a *global* impact—it goes from one end to the other, and it touches everything.

So also, our God’s work isn’t limited to a small region, but His power, work, and influence goes from one end of the earth to the other—it’s global. *[pause]*

Nothing is hidden from our Lord, or His touch.

He can work in any situation, anywhere. *[pause]*

No matter if you are here in Central Pennsylvania or halfway around the globe in Australia or some place like that. *[pause]*

No matter if you are in a deep, dark cave or in the highest heights in an airplane—God’s goodness and power can reach you there. *[pauseeee]*

The sun is a prime example of God’s glory. *[pause]*

Just look at its path, look at its reach, look at its strength and let it point you to its Creator, the Lord.

And to think, as Job says, “These are but the outskirts of his ways.”⁵ *[pauseeee]*

So yes, the sun may be shining its light on us, but it’s really shining its light on God, showing how amazing He is.

And any glory we see in the sun is a reflection of the ever-greater glory of God. *[pauseeee]*

You see, this passage in Psalm 19 is teaching us that...

God is constantly speaking to us through the world around us.

The heavens are speaking, they are saying something continually, everywhere, in wordless speech, but how often do you look up *and listen?* *[pauseeee]*

The whole earth is truly full of His glory,⁶ and nature is exuberant with a message—God exists and He is awesome! *[pauseeee]*

So what should our rightful response be to these things?...

Well we could take what Paul says of people and what they did in Romans 1, and seek the opposite of those things.⁷ *[pause]*

⁵ Job 26:14.

⁶ Isaiah 6:3.

⁷ I’m referring to Romans 1:18–32.

Instead of doing those things, we instead acknowledge that our God exists. *[pause]*

He is there, for we just look around us and see evidence of His existence in what He made, and how He even sustains us right this very moment. *[pauseeee]*

But secondly, we go further than mere acknowledgement of His existence, for we give Him thanks. *[pause]*

We thank God for the sun that gives us light and heat, and for the air that we breathe, and for the beautiful skies that we see...

Every single day should be a day filled to the brim and overflowing with thanks to God, who gives us everything. *[pauseeee]*

Creation should rebuke our ungratefulness, and stir us on to thanksgiving. *[pauseeee]*

And lastly, even further than mere acknowledgement and thanks, we give Him honor and worship. *[pause]*

We don't keep Him at a distance, but we draw near in humble admiration and worship, as we bow down before the Lord, our Maker.⁸ *[pauseeee]*

As His creations, we likewise reflect His glory, for we were made in the image of God.

But going further than that, we are called to do *everything* to the glory of God,⁹—so does your life declare and proclaim the glory of God? *[pauseeeee]*

And to think that we don't just know the general glory of God in creation, but we know the glory of God in a clearer, more deeper way, for we know Christ. *[pause]*

Jesus is called “the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.”¹⁰

And Paul says that, “God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”¹¹ *[pauseeee]*

So yes, God's glory is seen in Creation, but His glory is seen most evidently and powerfully in His Son, who came into this Creation, and died for our sins and rose again. *[pauseeee]*

So do you think Creation is amazing, for what it proclaims about God?

Just take a look at Jesus Christ, for it's there that we find God, and see not only that He exists, but we see His power, His wisdom, His goodness, and His grace.

⁸ A reference to Psalm 95:6.

⁹ A reference to 1 Corinthians 10:31.

¹⁰ Hebrews 1:3.

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 4:6.