

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 June.....Psalm 1.....The Path
- 2) 11 June.....Psalm 78.....The Past
- 3) 18 June.....Psalm 23.....The Shepherd
- 4) 25 June.....Psalm 138.....Our Response
- 5) 02 July.....Psalm 84.....His Presence
- 6) 09 July.....Psalm 95.....The Creator
- 7) 16 July.....Psalm 19.....God Revealed
- 8) 23 July.....Psalm 136.....His Love
- 9) 30 July.....Psalm 146.....His Faithfulness
- 10) 06 Aug.....Psalm 51.....The Confession
- 11) 13 Aug.....Psalm 32.....The Cleansing
- 12) 20 Aug.....Psalm 141.....The Protector
- 13) 27 Aug.....Psalm 42.....The Longing

INTRODUCTION

- The starry heavens have a very strong message for us earthlings

| Passage | Comments |
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| Psalm 19:1 | <p>The Heavens Declare the Glory of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture records 3 heavens <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earth's atmosphere 2. Space (i.e., Sun, Moon, stars, & galaxies) 3. Heaven of Heavens (i.e., God's throne) ♦ Mention of "heavens" and "the expanse" seem to indicate the starry heavens (Space) is the context here • The marvels of modern telescopes, radio telemetry, and spectral analysis only attest to the truth of this ancient phrase – the heavens declare God's glory • Science also validates Scripture as it repeatedly states God "stretches out the Heavens", IOWs, the Universe is ever expandingJob 9:8; Ps 104:2; Is 40:22; 42:5; Jer 10:12 |
| 19:2 | <p>The Heavens Speak to Us Around the Clock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you think about it, we are bombarded day and night with cosmic radiation. Light from each star provides information on their distance from earth, their composition, their movement (direction & velocity), & if they have orbiting planets • Their position, alone, tells us what season we are in • Why is the known Universe so expansive? Consider this. From the laws of physics, every star, every planet, & every moon affects our own gravity here on earth, which God formed to be inhabitedIsa 45:18 |
| 19:3-4a | <p>The Heavens (or Stars) Speak to Us without Words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly addressing how stars "silently speak" about God's immense power to us through their constant cosmic radiation <p>Big Bang (BB) theorists claim the distance between celestial bodies, in light years, proves the earth & the universe are billions of years old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Long-agers also have a light travel challenge called the Horizon Problem. The BB cannot explain how light has traveled across the universe to produce uniform "background" temperatures. Some areas in the Universe should be hotter or colder than others. ✦ Also, since we can see 40B light years in one direction and 40B light years in the opposite direction, why don't secular scientists say that our universe is 80B years old instead of a meager 15B years? Because if our universe is much older than 15B years, every star would be a cold, burnt out rock. Therefore, our Universe is very young. |
| 19:4b-6 | <p>The Sun – Another Marvel of Our Universe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential to life here on earth, and we really know very little about it. It would take 205 days for a 747 to fly around it • The largest star found so far is Canis Majoris (Big Dog), and it would take a 747 over a thousand years to fly around it <p>The rest of this Psalm now compares God's word to the Universe. Like the stars with their constant emission of cosmic radiation, God's word continually speaks to us, and it is key to an abundant life here on Earth – not an abundance of material things, but of meaning and purpose.</p> |
| 9:7 | <p>God's Word is the Foundation of Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is perfect (it cannot lie). It's the baseline for absolute truth • It revives the soul. "The truth sets us free"John 8:32 • It is sure. It has not, will not, and cannot fail. What do we stand on for truth? Earthly philosophies? Evolution? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Universe would cease to exist if God failed to keep even one of His unconditional promises.....Jer 31:35-36 • It makes the simple wise. If they would only listen |

| Passage | Comments |
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| 19:8 | <p>God's Word is Profitable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is right. It is morally pure – But do we base our life on it? • Makes the heart rejoice. There is real hope of blessings since all things work out for our good (Romans 8:28) even though we may go through tough times • It is pure. It is holy, But do we take it seriously? • Enlightens the eyes. It wakes us up to the reality of the bigger picture – we are not here for our purpose, but for God's purpose – for His glory. How should we then live? |
| 19:9 | <p>The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of the Lord is clean – The best thing to do is to have proper fear/respect/love for our creator. How do we do this? • Enduring forever – if we fear the Lord now, we will live with Him forever • God's ways are true & righteous – Why do we often avoid God and His ways and prefer to chase worldly trinkets? |
| 19:10 | <p>God's Word is Better Than Gold and Honey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we truly desire God and His word over everything else – including chocolate, money, coffee, other earthly pleasures? • Do we devote more time to playing golf, watching TV, posting on Facebook than reading the Bible, praying, & worshipping? |
| 19:11-12 | <p>God's Word Yields Great Rewards As It Reveals Our Faults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the pure, righteous, holy word of God truly resides in us, we begin to comprehend our true priceless value to God, since He sacrificed His precious Son for us, and our total unworthiness of His love, grace, and blessings toward us. • How can we use God's word as a 2-edged sword to reveal our faults and reveal how to fix those faults?Heb 4:12 |
| 19:13 | <p>Presumptuous Sins – What are These?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literally "proud" or "defiant" sins – IOWs, selfish sins • Like the Psalmist, we should pray for God's help to avoid such behavior, for they can be very controlling • What are some examples of such sins? <input type="checkbox"/> Addictive habits such as Drugs/Alcohol/Pom? <input type="checkbox"/> Other sins? |
| 19:14 | <p>CONCLUSION → If our words and our heart are acceptable to God, then we will hear these words from God's mouth one day: "Well done, thy good and faithful servant"Mat 25:21</p> |

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God's word is constantly speaking to us, like the cosmic radiation from space – it is evidential, continuous, timely, relevant, and accurate.
- Are we making intentional efforts to read it and heed its teachings?

NEXT WEEK: Psalm 136. This Psalm is more than just a responsive song where a Levitical song leader led the recital while the Levitical choir or the worshipers responded with the refrain "For His lovingkindness is everlasting" 26x, for this psalm highlights many of God's characteristics.



"Oh, great, it won't be long until the religious nuts are out in force claiming it's the end of the world ... again."