

# Glory

## Psalm 19

Can you imagine with me the glory of God? The vastness of the Universe...the beauty of the heavens...the stars...the moon...the sun...the mountains....oceans....trees...flowering plants....wide animals....the beauty of all creation? Think on these things!

How do we know God? God has given us God's self-disclosure in the heavens and the Lord's gift of the law. Nature proclaims the identity of God (El), while the rest of the scripture is a song of praise to YHWH, who gives us Torah.

God's glory is declared in the heavens. God's glory shines through creation. The heavens do not simply reflect God, but the creation "day to day pours forth speech." The heavens speak words, specific communications, declaring who God is to human beings. These words issued by the heavens and the firmament declare true knowledge of God.

The psalmist declares: that the creation pours forth with the heavens declaring knowledge, but "their voice is not heard."

The whole of creation communicates God's person, God's character, but human beings do not have ears to hear this word, to receive this gift. The fault is not in the communicator, but in those who do not or cannot hear. This communication seeks out humans

even as we are unaware of it. Thus the psalmist likens God's speech to an unrelenting and searing sun. The sun faithfully bears God's word, running the course of the heavens with joy. No one or thing can hide from its heat. **Charles A. Wiley**

"The heavens are telling the glory of God," declares the psalmist, inviting our attention to the glory and handiwork of God. Our appropriate responses surely include wonder, reverence, and humility. Can the human mind imagine billions of galaxies? How much is a "billion"? If you planted a thousand tulip bulbs each day from the day Jesus was born until today, you would still need to plant 1,000 bulbs every day for the next 750 years to reach one billion.

The same God who created the vast universe is the God who gave us the law to give us guidance for loving God and loving our neighbor. The law, precepts, and ordinances of God bring order to the otherwise chaotic moral universe of human existence, no less than God's governance brings order to the heavens. The majestic realities of outer space may prepare us to encounter the majestic realities of inner space.

God's perfect law	revives the soul.
God's stable rule	guides the simple.
God's just demands	delight the heart.
God's clear commands	Sharpen vision.
God's faultless decrees	stand forever.

God's right judgments	keep their truth.
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Insofar as God's people may live in and by the law, human life, no less than the starry sky, is an arena where we are "changed from glory into glory ... lost in wonder, love, and praise." **Thomas Edward Mcgrath**

Sometimes we forget that God's glory is revealed not only in Christ, but also in the Creation that bears not the *imago dei* but the *vestigia dei*, or imprint of its Maker. Each sparrow is counted—and according to Psalm 19, even if humanity forgets the source of life and all good gifts, creation itself does not forget. If all of humanity vanished, or even if other creatures were not here to honor God, nonetheless, in the brilliant sun, racing across the heaven, making day and night—with neither chirp nor hum nor growl nor speech—God's glory would *still* be proclaimed, and God's word would *still* be imparted to the end of the world. **Susan Marie Smith**

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