

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Have you ever tried to describe a place to someone after returning from a trip? Maybe you were at the beach with the ocean waves rolling in towards the shore. Maybe you went hiking through a National Park and came upon a waterfall cascading off the edge of a cliff with the roar of the water and the wetness of the mist. Maybe you were on a mountain with a panoramic view that seemed to go on for miles and miles.

When words fail to adequately describe the experience, we usually show the person pictures that we took while we were there. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then how many words is all of creation worth? Psalm 19:1, *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

In Exodus 33:18, Moses requested Yahweh to “show me your glory.” In this psalm, though, David is poetically saying that we have the glory of God right in front of us and all around us each and every day.

In Psalm 19:1-6, David describes the declaration of the creation. It is awesome and it is everywhere. Beginning with the last line of verse 4, he illustrates his point with the sun - the most powerful object in the sky - stating that God is the one who set the heavenly bodies on their course.

In 19:7-11, he talks about Yahweh’s instructions, their benefits, and their value. He uses five different words referring to God’s instructions (see also Psalm 119) and gives multiple benefits that a person could receive if they would heed them - reviving the soul and making wise the simple (7); giving joy to the heart and light to the eyes (8). The value of these instructions is compared with the preciousness of gold and the sweetness of honey. The practical value in following them is that a person can be warned and greatly rewarded.

In 19:12-14, David gives the practical application. Humans are not always aware of their own faults. It is easy for me to overlook my own shortcomings but be quick to recognize yours. God’s instructions, when used properly, will uncover hidden faults within us. Submissiveness to them will keep us from being rebellious to God and a slave to sin.

When we acknowledge God’s greatness to the same degree that the universe does and develop the desire to love and serve him, then we, like David, will want our words, our thoughts, and our actions to be pleasing to our Creator!

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