

“The Heavens Reveal His Glory”  
(Psalm 19:1-6)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. This morning, we’re going to shift gears a bit.
  - a. We’ve been considering spiritual warfare:
    - (i) That we are in a battle.
    - (ii) That it is not against flesh and blood, but spiritual forces.
    - (iii) That God has equipped us for the battle with spiritual weapons.
    - (iv) And that He has promised to go with us into battle.
  - b. We’ve also considered that the war we’re fighting has already been won.
    - (i) Christ has done battle with the devil and defeated him.
    - (ii) He has been exalted as King.
    - (iii) He has authority over all the forces of darkness.
    - (iv) He has authority over all the nations.
    - (v) He has promised to go into battle with us and give us the victory.
    - (vi) So we don’t need to be afraid.
2. We’ve also seen that the Lord has given us many advantages in the battle:
  - a. He has given us His Spirit to give us the will to fight.
  - b. He has given us the sacraments, worship, Christian fellowship to strengthen our hearts.
  - c. He even has an army He dispatches to fight with us against the enemy: the angels.

B. Preview.

1. What we’ll want to consider today are two advantages in particular: one we haven’t considered in this context – General Revelation – and one we have – Special Revelation.
  - a. Revelation is something that was hidden which is now revealed.
    - (i) If God had chosen not to make Himself known, nothing could be known. In that case, ultimately, nothing would exist, besides Him.
    - (ii) But having created all things, and especially having created man, His revealing Himself has become inevitable – at least it has in one sense.
  - b. God has revealed Himself in two ways:
    - (i) Through the Creation and through His continuing direction of it (Providence) He has revealed that He is and what He is like.
    - (ii) We call this General Revelation because it is available to all; or Natural Revelation because it is what He reveals in nature: this is that revelation of Himself that can’t be avoided – once He has made, it speaks of Him.
    - (iii) But He has also revealed Himself and His mind more directly in a special way: in Scripture.
    - (iv) We call this Special Revelation, because it is contained only in Scripture and given to a specific people: His church.

2. This evening, we'll consider Special Revelation, and its value in helping us fight our spiritual battles.
3. This morning, we'll consider General Revelation, and how it is God's witness to His existence to help us in our spiritual warfare. We'll see three things:
  - a. First, that God has revealed Himself in the Creation.
  - b. Second, what God has revealed about Himself in the Creation.
  - c. Finally, how men respond to this revelation of God in Creation.

## II. Sermon.

- A. First, our passage clearly says that God has revealed Himself in the Creation.
  1. David tells us that the heavens speak of God.
    - a. They do this day to day:
      - (i) He gives the example of the sun (vv. 4-6).
      - (ii) It is like a bridegroom coming out of his tent: handsomely decked in all his glory (v. 5).
      - (iii) Like a strong man running a race across the sky, rejoicing in his strength (v. 5), running from one end of the heavens to the other (v. 6).
    - b. The heavens do this from night to night:
      - (i) When the sun goes down, the stars come out.
      - (ii) Then the moon can be seen, the planets, nebulas, quasars, distant suns.
    - c. They tell us of the work of God's hands: that He made them.
      - (i) They speak – but not verbally: there is no speech nor words (v. 3), “Their voice is not heard” (v. 3).
      - (ii) And yet, “Their line (instruction; cf. Isa. 28:10) has gone out” (v. 4).
  2. And it reaches everyone.
    - a. There is nothing hidden from its heat: all see it and feel the warmth the sun brings (v. 6).
    - b. “Their line has gone out *through all the earth*, and their utterances *to the end of the world* (v. 4).
    - c. And so the heavens speak and all hear what they say.
- B. Second, what do they say? They tell us about God: “The heavens are telling of the glory of God” (v. 1).
  1. What do they tell us about Him?
    - a. First, that God is.
      - (i) We can't look at what's there and not know that God exists.
      - (ii) Something caused what we see; we know it didn't cause itself.
      - (iii) When we consider the sun, moon and stars, the solar system, the galaxies, the universe, these don't explain themselves.
      - (iv) There is no reason found in them as to why they are and why they are as they are: put together in such a marvelous design.
      - (v) Instead, they tell us that someone caused them, someone created them.
      - (vi) They tell us that God exists.
    - b. Second, they tell us that God is eternal – that He has always been.

- (i) Whatever caused everything we see must have been around forever, because it's impossible that there was a time when there was absolutely nothing.
  - (ii) He has always been, the uncaused cause, the Prime Mover.
  - (iii) The Creation tells us that there must be someone who is eternal, because it is impossible that whoever started everything there is could not have existed at one time.
- c. They tell us that He is infinite.
- (i) The Creation itself seems to have no limits, but we know that isn't possible: any created thing must have limits.
  - (ii) Yet, we know that there can be no limit to space: it much stretch on endlessly.
  - (iii) There cannot be a place where everything ceases to be: where there is nothing.
  - (iv) Therefore, this cause of all things must be infinite: there must be no end to His Being.
- d. Creation tells us that God is powerful.
- (i) What we see is immense: planets, suns, stars, galaxies, the universe – which contains an estimated 125-240 billion galaxies.
  - (ii) What kind of power would it take to create this?
  - (iii) The heavens tell us that God has infinite power.
- e. And it tells us that He is wise and intelligent.
- (i) The things we see in space are not just clumps of rock or frozen gas floating around.
  - (ii) There is design, there are systems such as solar systems, galaxies; there are orbits of planets and comets; all functioning together in a universe.
  - (iii) We see design on a cosmic scale: therefore the One who made and set this in motion is wise and intelligent beyond our ability to comprehend.
- f. “The heavens are telling of the glory of God” (v. 7).
2. If we include other aspects of His Creation, we see more of His glory:
- a. Such as man:
    - (i) Man is conscious of His own existence: therefore what caused us must also be.
    - (ii) Man is intelligent: therefore what caused us has intelligence.
    - (iii) Man is a moral being: therefore what caused us must be moral.
    - (iv) The cause must be greater than the effect.
    - (v) God must have what He creates in us.
  - b. The earth: plants, animals, geography, weather, water cycle, etc.
    - (i) That God is again wise and very intelligent in His designing of these things.
    - (ii) He has a wonderful sense of symmetry, esthetics, beauty.
    - (iii) That God is good: He provides for all His creatures.
    - (iv) But that He is angry: conscience, “natural” catastrophes.
3. If we include Providence:
- a. We again see infinite wisdom, intelligence in planning and using even evil for good purposes.
  - b. All these things tell us of the glory of God.

C. Finally, let's consider how man should respond to this revelation and how he does in fact respond.

1. Why did God give this revelation?

- a. To be a witness to His existence: "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:16-17).
- b. So that men would seek Him:
  - (i) Sometimes the Lord uses it to bring people to Him from the nations.
  - (ii) There are accounts of those in various lands who admitted they knew that God was, but were waiting to discover who He was.
  - (iii) Missionaries have told of those who were ready to receive them.
- c. So that all might honor and glorify Him as God.
  - (i) The effect this has on the Christian is to strengthen his or her faith. It is a constant testimony that He exists.
  - (ii) It is also a help in evangelism, in fighting this aspect of the spiritual warfare:
    - (a) These are the things we can point to.
    - (b) Paul did so to the Stoics and Epicureans on Mars Hill (Acts 17), and the Gentiles in Lystra (Acts 14:16-17).
    - (c) He tells us that the evidence is so strong that it leaves all men without excuse: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).
    - (d) They all see it – even Helen Keller who couldn't see or hear knew that God existed – they all understand it, which is why they are without excuse.
    - (e) An unbeliever once challenged me by saying that if God existed and the Gospel were true, He would write it on every rock and on every tree. I told him that God did: He is seen in every rock, tree, animal, plant, and person; everything bears witness to Him.
    - (f) Men should accept that witness.

2. But let's not forget that not all do accept it.

- a. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (v. 18).
- b. Most people won't; there is still the sin/hardness of heart issue.
- c. We still need to pray and rely on God's Spirit to change hearts, which He is pleased to do through the Gospel.
- d. Just because someone denies something doesn't make it false.
- e. God says it is enough, it proves His point. That's all that matters.
- f. And so let's use it, point to it, show others how it bears witness to God.
- g. It is a witness to His glory that we can't afford to ignore. Amen.