

- Last week we looked at three songs of Thanksgiving. The first was Exodus 15, which was a song sung by the Israelites thanking God for delivering them from the Egyptian army in the famous “parting of the Red Sea” incident. The second and third (Psalms 9 and 136) were both written by David as a way of thanking God for protecting him in battle and for helping Israel. Today we will look at two Psalms that emphasizes David’s respect for the Law of the Lord.
- Psalm 19 is written by David. It is quite famous and provides a lot of memorable verses.
- David starts out noting that the sky and earth are evidence of God’s glory and workmanship. (Psalm 19:1)
- Paul will emphasize this very point in his letter to the church at Rome, saying that if people will just look around they would know God must exist, so people are without any excuse for not believing in God. (Romans 1:20)
- David uses seeming contradictions in saying that words flow forth but there are no words. What he is saying is that the evidence of God’s power is so apparent it speaks for itself and men cannot do it justice with words. (Psalm 19:2-4)
- David mentions that God controls the sun and talks about its circuits. (Psalm 19:5-6) The use of the word “circuit” is reminiscent of how the writer of Ecclesiastes describes the wind (Ecclesiastes 1:6). It is evidence that even writers of the Bible were advanced enough in science to know that God set the wind and sun in circuits or paths.
- David then talks extensively and in detail about the desirability of the Lord’s Law. (Psalm 19:7-10)
- We even sing a today called “The Law of the Lord” which sings these exact words.
- David mentions that the purpose of the Law of the Lord is to correct and make someone blameless again. (Psalm 19:11-13)
- David concludes by imploring God that his words and meditations be acceptable to Him. (Psalm 19:14)
- Psalm 119 is written by David. It is divided in 22 parts, per the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the 22 sections is 8 verses (thus, 8 times 22 = 176, the total number of verses in this Psalm). Each verse starts with the letter of the alphabet to which that section corresponds. With so much rigid structure, one would think the song would make little sense or be disjointed. It is not. In fact, it is very elegant and the thoughts seem to flow continuously from one to another.
- The first two sections concentrate on the Law of the Lord, it’s power and a commitment by David keep the commands. (Psalm 119:1-8)
- David then talks about the law in context of youth, and why it is important to keep God’s law and stay fixed on it. (Psalm 119:9-16)
- This part is reminiscent of the Ecclesiastes writer’s exhortation to “remember the creator in the days of your youth.” (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
- We sing a song called “How Shall the Young Secure their Hearts” and is no doubt based on the passage in Psalms 119.

20170426 Wednesday PM

Psalms 19 and 119

Psalms of the Law of the Lord

page 2 of 3

- David talks about how he longs to learn how to adhere to the Law of the Lord and asks God to guide him in that effort. (Psalm 119:17-32)
- David asks God to teach him, reiterates his commitment to keep the Law, and asks God to deliver him from his enemies. (Psalm 119:33-96)
- Notice that David is not asking God to destroy his enemies, merely to be delivered from them.
- David contrasts the Law of the Lord with the tendencies of men to let him down. He says he loves the former and does not care for the latter. (Psalm 119:97-176)

Questions:

1. In Psalm 19, what does David say shows God's power and workmanship?
2. What does Paul say about the evidence of God in creation?
3. What does David mean when he says there are words flowing forth but there are no words?
4. What is the significance of David using the term "circuit" to describe what God did with the sun?
5. What does David say about the Law of the Lord?
6. What does David say the dual purpose of the Law of the Lord is?
7. What does David tell God he hopes will be acceptable to Him?
8. What is the significance of the structure of Psalm 119?
9. How does David open Psalm 119?
10. When does David say is the right time to begin adhering to the Law of the Lord?
11. Who does David ask for help in adhering to the Law of the Lord?
12. What does David ask with respect to his enemies?
13. What does David contrast God's Law to in Psalm 119?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: [madison@madisonlaird.com](mailto:madison@madisonlaird.com)