**Psalm 19 Psalms of Praise**

Last Week:

Psalms of Lament, cont. Psalm 73&74 God’s emotions, our emotions.

We looked at some of the emotions God expressed in the Scriptures, such as a sense of satisfaction at creation, regret and troubled at having created mankind when we rebelled, jealousy when Israel committed idolatry, compassion like a mother for her child toward Israel, fierce anger and unending loyal love (hesed).

We saw Asaph feeling some very intense “negative” emotions because of what he had been enduring recently. Envy to sinners who were nevertheless having success, anger to his enemies, disappointment that God had not intervened to help, hopeless, it has not been worth it to serve God, sadness, rejection, abandoned. God, take your hands out of your pockets!

But then he stopped, he came into God’s Sanctuary. He felt safe, protected, a renewed desire to be with God, confident.

We learned that it is not sinful to feel these negative emotions, but we need to not go down rabbit holes. We need to train ourselves to be real with ourselves, and real with God, but we always need to take it to God, where we will find comfort and renewal.

Types of Psalms

1. Psalms of lament (complaint) A call to God for Help in times of struggle. A psalmist is feeling fear, loss, sorrow. To be used in our personal devotions.

2. Imprecatory Psalms Calls for God to come to our aid and to judge his enemies. Psalms of vengeance (surprising) Useful in our personal prayer life.

3. Psalms of Praise: Used in worship. Psalm 19

4. Psalms of Confession. Also good for public worship. Psalm 51 & 32

5. Historical Psalms Psalmist remembers the great deeds of God. Psalm 105-106

6. Wisdom Psalms Psalms like Proverbs. Psalm 1

7. Royal Psalms and Messianic Psalms Psalm 110, 22

Today: Psalms of praise! Psalm 19

Today, I want us to spend time praising God.

You will not be challenged today.

You will not be called to repent today.

You and I will be praising God—telling one another how great he is.

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God.

Two kinds of Revelation:

Special Revelation: God speaks to his people through the Bible or a prophet. (last week)

General Revelation: God speaks to everyone through his creation.

It is more general—less specific, but it is at least as awe-inspiring.

For me, yesterday on the hike!

Galileo Galilei: The Bible was written to tell us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go. (specific, not general revelation)

Galileo:

For the Holy Bible and the phenomena of nature proceed alike from the divine Word, the former as the dictate of the Holy Spirit and the latter as the observant executor of God’s commands.

In other words, the heavens declare the glory of God.

They shout, they proclaim, they do so eloquently, convincingly, overwhelmingly

As a scientist I see this in stark reality. I see God’s incredible wisdom and power displayed on every possible level and in every corner of his creation.

The quark, the electron, the atom, the protein molecule, the cell, the blue whale, the earth, the solar system, the galaxy, superclusters of galaxies, the universe.

At every level there is an intricacy, elegance, simplicity, yet incredible complexity to God’s creation.

He could conceive of all these levels at once. God is amazing. I run out of superlatives. This is our God.

He could invent quantum mechanics, subatomic particles, atoms, molecules, cells, living things, a planet and environment for them to live in, a star to provide energy, a galaxy within which to create the solar system, and a universe to create the galaxy.

And there are so many elements of design in that universe that points inexorably and inescapably to an intelligent designer.

Gravity force water (the right melting point, specific heat, expansion coefficient, surface tension, solvent properties), iron, DNA/protein, etc….

The heavens declare the glory of God with such clarity that:

Romans 1: 18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickednesss, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to the. For since the creation of the universe God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen,being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

On top of that: What about us?

Psalm 139:13-14

We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

How does the genetic information contained in a single fertilized egg produce an adult human being? How does each cell know to produce a skin cell, a neuron, a bone cell, a pancreatic cell…?

You cut yourself: It grows back!

How does our memory work? What is human consciousness? What about free will?

I can remember literally tens of thousands of songs? I can re-experience sights, smells, emotions from 60 years ago. Where are these stored?

God did all that.

But… We are just getting started with praising God.

Psalm 19:7-11 This is David after all, so he cannot help praising God for his Word!!!

The Law is perfect. It revives the soul. Not one error!

His statutes are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Can you trust the treasury of the US? What about your mother?

His precepts are right.

His commands are radiant. They spread light.

His decrees are firm. They ain’t moving.

Illustration of the man in a boat and the man in a lighthouse.

There was an encounter between a large naval ship and what at first appears to be another vessel, on a foggy night on a [collision course](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collision_course). The naval vessel, a [battleship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battleship)  requests that the other ship change course. The other party responds that the naval vessel should change course, whereupon the captain of the naval vessel reiterates the demand, identifying himself “This is the battleship USS Yorkshire, change course!!!! The response: "**I'm a lighthouse, sir.**

**The Word of God is the lighthouse.**

Q: Has God ever been wrong? Has he ever steered you in the wrong direction?

Praise God.

But we are still just getting started.

Psalm 148

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, from the heavens praise His Name;  
Praise Jehovah in the highest, all His angels, praise proclaim.  
All His hosts, together praise Him, sun and moon and stars on high;  
Praise Him, O you heav’ns of heavens, and you floods above the sky.  
  
Refrain:  
Let them praises give Jehovah, for His Name alone is high,  
And His glory is exalted, and His glory is exalted,  
And His glory is exalted far above the earth and sky.  
  
Let them praises give Jehovah, they were made at His command;  
Them forever He established, His decree shall ever stand,  
From the earth, O praise Jehovah, All ye floods, ye dragons all,  
Fire and hail and snow and vapors, stormy winds that hear Him call.  
  
All you fruitful trees and cedars, all you hills and mountains high,  
Creeping things and beasts and cattle, birds that in the heavens fly,  
Kings of earth, and all you people, princes great, earth’s judges all;  
Praise His Name, young men and maidens, aged men, and children small.

Psalm 147

v. 1 How good it is to praise our God.

But we have to have some “stuff” to praise him for, right?

v. 2 He builds up Jerusalem. He is building a mighty kingdom on the earth.

Can I hear a “Praise the Lord” for that?

He gathers the exiles He is calling the lost into his kingdom.

v. 3 In the meantime, in his kingdom He heals the brokenhearted

He binds up our emotional wounds.

v.4 All the while, he keeps the physical world going, just fine.

v. 6 He lifts up the humble and casts down the prideful. Praise God for that!!!

v. 8,9 He provides weather. He gives us food to eat.

v. 12 Extol. To extol is to praise enthusiastically.

Group activity: Let’s spend a couple of minutes extoling God to our neighbor.

v. 15-18 And God is very powerful.

v. 19-20 In all his greatness, he has chosen to reveal himself to you and to me.

A few more things to praise God about:

Ps 138:1-8

I will praise you with all my heart.

I will praise your name!!!

Why, you ask? Well, let me tell you:

1. v. 2 Unfailing love and faithfulness. Praise God for that!

2. v. 3 When we pray, God answers. Praise God for that!

3. v. 6 Though God is highly exalted, He looks kindly on the lowly. Praise God for that!

4. v. 7 When we are in trouble, He preserves our life. How many times should I have died already?

5. v. 8 God will vindicate (clear of blame or suspicion) me Praise God for that.

6. v. 8 And last, but not least: His love endures forever. Or as David said in Psalm 30:5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor for a lifetime. Praise God for that!

Summary:

Let us praise our God!

Creator, redeemer, lover, helper, builder, provider, protector, prayer-answerer, law-giver, vindicator, unmoved one, powerful one, faithful one, exalted one,

That is our God!

Let’s end by reading Psalm 100.

In this Psalm we are praising God for no particular reason—just because he is God.

**Shout for joy to the lord, all the earth**

**Worship the Lord with gladness;**

**Come before him with joyful songs.**

**Know that the Lord is God**

**It is he who has made us, and we are his;**

**We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his coursts with praise;**

**Give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**For the Lordis good and his love endures forever;**

**His faithfulness continues through all generations.**