

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Psalms 19:1-4, To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

- 1) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
- 2) Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3) *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.
- 4) Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

Some would say that what we Christians acknowledge and call creation, or the heavens, is silent; in other words, it does not speak to a personal divine being as its creator. But that is not true. David said the heavens declare the glory of God. The heavens speak volumes. It "uttereth speech" and "sheweth knowledge." "Their voice" is heard loud and clear to those who honor it.

The CEV translation reads, "The heavens keep telling the wonders of God, and the skies declare what he has done." No, the heavens are not silent. They keep telling the wonders of God, even to the fool who does not see the glory of God. Paul said in Romans 1:20, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

Yes, they (the unbeliever) will be without excuse. They will not be able to say with any conviction that they did not know God existed. They will not be able to honestly complain before the face of God that they did not realize that the heavens declare the glory of God and that the "firmament sheweth (nâgad) his handywork." The BDB definition of "sheweth" means - to be conspicuous, to tell, to make known.

Adam Clarke says that the heavens declaring the glory of God literally means, "The heavens number out the glory of the strong God. A first view of the starry heavens strikes every beholder with astonishment at the power by which they were made, and by which they are supported." John declares, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Albert Barnes says about the heavens that they "announce, proclaim, make known his glory. The word heavens refers to the material heavens as they appear to the eye - the region of the sun, moon, and stars." Professor Michael Ward quotes an author who wisely proclaims that we should consider the created order as "the heavens" and not simply "space." It is not "space" or "outer space" but the "heavens," the heavens that magnificently and powerfully display and proclaim the glory of God.

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