

## Psalms 8, 19

**Psalms 8:4,5** What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

Both of our Psalms are star-gazer songs. The moon, sun and stars give witness to the character, intent and purposes of the Creator. Both Psalms also reflect on the Word of God in relationship with the wonders of the heavens.

**Psalms 8:** To see the stars is to see a witness to the glory of God. Even the youngest of children know this, and so the denials of those who refuse to acknowledge God are futile. But the vastness of the heavens raises a question. Why did God give to man a dominion over the creation? The creation account includes this responsibility. We are a little lower than the angels since our domain is earthly and theirs heavenly. Here, our dominion is clear, domestic and wild animals, and even the birds and the fish are subject to the whims and purposes of human interventions in their existence. The praise offered to God is a thankfulness for the significance that He has given to our lives. The perspective is that the earth is the Lord's and that He has given to us responsibility and privilege over what He has made. One point of interest is the degree to which this principle of human dominion has advanced through the

sciences. Another is the value judgments that could be made of the effects of human dominion given the extinction of species, the pollution of resources and general harm that human initiative has inflicted on the planet.

**Psalms 19:** Again, David's contemplation begins with upturned eyes, "The heavens declare the glory of God..." David is caught up in the message written in the skies. The message is continuous for the skies are always speaking. The message is universal as its meaning is clear no matter what the language of the observer might be. The message is inclusive for all people are the recipients of the message no matter where they live. If the heavens were a play then the dramatic climax would be the rising of the sun. The earth is lit up and warmed from one end to the other. Everyone experiences the hopes, possibilities, and opportunities of each new day.

David's contemplation turns from sky to Word, from nature to the Book. The heavens speak so that we know of God. The Word serves as a key providing the means by which we can have a relationship with the God we know. Notice the descriptions of the Word: *Law* – divine instruction relative to character and conduct, *Testimony* – divine witness as to what God is and what we should be, *Statute* – divine directions designed to secure obedience or check disobedience, *Commandment* – divine decrees whose character is authoritative and imperious, – *Fear* settles habit of the soul

which is informed by the Law, *Judgments* – the judicial decisions and sentences of the Lord.

The attributes of the Word: *Perfect* – without flaw or defect, lacking nothing, *Sure* – reliable, worthy of being absolutely followed, *Right* – presenting the straight road to man's true goal, *Pure* – bright like the sun, clear, making duty plain, *Clean* – with no foul spot, antagonizing corruption, *True* – never false, ever faithful.

The effects of the Word: *Restores the soul* – refreshing the inner life as food does the body, *Makes wise the simple* – giving practical guidance to the inexperienced, *Rejoices the heart* – bringing delight and pleasure to those who obey it, *Enlightens the eyes* – illuminating the dark and renewing the faint, *Endures forever* – the Word is eternal, *Vindicated altogether* – the mutual parts explain and defend one another.

David wants to possess the Word (more valuable than gold). He receives pleasure from the Word (sweeter than honey). He is protected by the Word (by them your servant is warned and rewarded).

Finally, David contemplates his experience of the Word. It awakened his awareness. It gave him a vision of freedom and an aspiration for a clear conscience. Sky and Word led to David's resolve to please God with every thought and word.