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Lesson 12: Psalm 19-22

Psalm 19

Author: David

Background: Unknown

Theme: David shows that the Creator of the universe is the giver of the law and is worthy of praise, worship, and obedience.

Outline (The outline comes from Wilmington's Outline Bible with additional notes from other resources as noted.)

I. NATURAL REVELATION (19:1-6)

For him creation reveals the Lord's royal majesty and sovereignty (cf. Rom 1:19-20). It evokes a response of recognition of God's existence, majesty, and wisdom and, therefore, of praise (cf. Rom 10:18). The hymn of creation is composed of two parts: the revelation of the skies (vv. 1-4b) and the revelation of the sun (vv. 4c-6).¹

- A. **Where is this revelation?** (19:1-2, 4-6): The heavens, including the sun, tell of God's glory.
- B. **Who sees this revelation?** (19:3-4): People all over the world can see this "soundless sermon."

¹ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (179). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

II. **SUPERNATURAL REVELATION (19:7-14)**

A. **David describes God's Word (19:7-9).**

1. *What it is* (19:7-9): It is perfect, trustworthy, right, clear, true.
2. *What it does* (19:7-9): It revives the soul, makes the simple wise, brings joy to the heart, and gives insight to life.

The benefits are set forth propositionally (vv. 7-9). First, God's word "revives" (cf. v. 7). Its restorative quality gives healing to the whole person by assuring forgiveness and cleansing and by giving life to the godly. It unleashes the promises of God by his gracious redemptive acts (80:3, 7, 19). Second, God's word is the source of "wisdom" to all who are ready to receive it (v. 7; cf. 119:130; Prov 21:11). Both the inexperienced ("the simple," v. 7; cf. Prov 1:4) and the wise develop as they begin with "the fear of the LORD" (v. 9; cf. Deut 4:10; Prov 1:7) and embrace the will of God in all aspects of life (cf. Prov 1:2-6). Third, God's word gives "joy" (v. 8a). The heartfelt joy is equivalent to inner peace and tranquility, as one loves God with all his heart, i.e., with his innermost being. Fourth, God's word gives "light to the eyes" (v. 8b). The internal joy radiates through the eyes. It expresses the joy of being alive and of receiving God's blessings (cf. 13:3). Thus Yahweh has made the sun for light in creation and has given his word for light in redemption.²

It causes integrity, loyalty, uprightness, purity, and growth in righteousness (vv. 7-9).³

B. **David desires God's Word (19:10-14).**

1. *How he views it* (19:10): David considers God's word more precious than gold and sweeter than honey.
2. *Why he values it* (19:11-14): David knows that God's word can keep him from sin.⁴

Psalm 20

Author: David

Background: Unknown

Theme: David expresses the hope that God will lead the king and answer his requests.

I. THE REQUESTS (20:1-5, 9): David wishes several things for the king:

A. May the Lord respond to your cry (20:1, 9).

² Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (182). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

³ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (182). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible (Ps 19)*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

- B. **May the Lord keep you safe** (20:1).
- C. **May the Lord send you help and strengthen you** (20:2).
- D. **May the Lord look favorably on your offerings** (20:3).
- E. **May the Lord grant your heart's desire** (20:4).
- F. **May we shout for joy over your victory** (20:5).
- G. **May the Lord answer all your prayers** (20:5).

II. THE REASSURANCE (20:6-8): The psalmist is confident in the Lord.⁵ David on one occasion “took from Hadarezer, King of Zobah, a thousand chariots, and seven thousand horsemen” (1 Chron. 18:4). On another he “slew of the Syrians seven thousand men which fought in chariots” (1 Chron. 19:18).⁶

The phrase “Now I know” (v. 6) is equivalent to “I have come to the conclusion that” (Exod 18:11; Judg 17:13; 1 Kings 17:24).⁷

Psalm 21

Author: David

Background: This psalm may be in response to the Lord granting the victories prayed for in Psalm 20.

Theme: Answered prayer solicits a response of fervent praise.

The outline for this psalm comes from Warren Wiersbe’s Bible Exposition Commentary.

1. Looking Back: Celebration for Past Victories (v.1-7)

V.3-6--The king’s victory was the Lord’s doing, but the king receives his reward. In reward for his loyalty, the Lord bestows on his servant great gifts: his presence, rich blessings, a crown of pure gold, a long rule, great glory, and honor.⁸

2. Looking Ahead: Anticipation of Future Victories (v.8-12)

“God’s right hand is more than a symbol of power; it actively works for His people and brings defeat to their enemies (89:13; 118:15-16; Deut. 5:15).” –Wiersbe

⁵ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ps 20). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (139). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁷ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (192). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁸ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (194). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Israel and David's posterity would be preserved (18:50; II Sam. 7:16; Gen. 12:1-3), but there would be no future at all for the enemy.

3. **Looking Up: Exaltation of the Lord of the Victories (v.13)**

David concludes the psalm praising God for His greatness. If the Lord has answered your prayers, do not hesitate to praise Him!!!

Here's verse 13 in the NLT:

Rise up, O LORD, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.⁹

Psalm 22

Author: David

Background:

Theme: The psalm simultaneously tells of both David's and Jesus' experiences. They feel abandoned by God. Their enemies have viciously attacked them, and they call out for deliverance. They then rejoice, knowing that the Lord defends the oppressed.

(The following outline comes from Wilmington's Outline Bible)

I. **JESUS' GRIEVOUS CRUCIFIXION (22:1-21):** As David speaks of his suffering, he also foretells Jesus' sufferings on the cross.

A. **The testimony (22:9-11, 19-21):** Both Jesus and David share two things in common:

1. *They have been raised to love God (22:9-10).*
2. *They call upon God for deliverance (22:11, 19-21).*

B. **The travail (22:1-8, 12-18):** David's experiences foretell of Jesus' experience of being alone on the cross.

1. *Abandoned by God (22:1-5): "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46; Heb 5:7)*

Verse 3- "But you are holy"; despite the suffering & feeling abandoned, David & Jesus remain committed to the Father (I Pt. 2:23)

2. *Abused by his enemies (22:6-8, 12-18):* His enemies have done several things to him.

- a. He is scorned and despised (22:6).

A reproach of men, and despised of the people (comp. Isa. 49:7; 53:3; and for the fulfilment, see Matt. 27:39). How deeply Christ was "despised of the people" appeared most evidently when they expressed their desire that, instead of him, a

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 21:13). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

murderer should be granted to them (Acts 3:14).¹⁰

- b. He is mocked and insulted (22:7–8).
Compare w/Luke 23:35; Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:29; Matt. 27:43
- c. He is forsaken with none to help (22:11).
Compare w/Matt. 26:56
- d. He is viciously attacked by his enemies (22:12–13, 16).
Strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. Bashan, the richest pasture-ground of Palestine, produced the largest and strongest animals (Ezek. 39:18). Hence “the kine of Bashan” became an expression for powerful oppressors (Amos 4:1).¹¹
Compare w/Matt. 27:23-24; Mk. 15:16
- e. His life is poured out like water (22:14).
Compare w/Ps. 58:7; II Sam. 14:14...extreme weakness
- f. His bones are out of joint (22:14, 17).
Here’s verse 17 in the NIV:
I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.¹²

Compare with Lk. 23:35a MSG The people stood there staring at Jesus...
- g. His strength is totally dried up (22:15).
Look at Jn. 19:28
- h. His hands and feet are pierced (22:16).
Compare w/Jn. 20:25-28
- i. His clothes are divided up and gambled for (22:18).
This may not pertain to David at all, but prophetically to Christ. Two evangelists (Matt. 27:35; John 19:24) note the fulfilment of the prophecy in the conduct of the soldiers at the crucifixion of Christ.¹³

II. JESUS’ GLORIOUS CORONATION (22:22–31)

A. **He praises the Lord for defending the oppressed (22:22–25):** Some see this as an

¹⁰ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (152). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹¹ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (153). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹² *The Holy Bible: New International Version.* 1996 (electronic ed.) (Ps 22:17). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

¹³ *The Pulpit Commentary: Psalms Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (153). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

implied reference to Christ's resurrection (see Hebrews 2:12).

Here's verse 24 in the NLT:

For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help.¹⁴

- B. **All nations will worship the Lord** (22:26–31): Some see this as a reference to Christ's future reign.¹⁵
Compare v.28 w/Ps. 96:10; 97:1

¹⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 22:24). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

¹⁵ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ps 22). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.