

THE MEANING OF TORAH

PSALM 19



INTRODUCTION

Two kinds of
revelation in Psalm 19

- **Natural (verses 1-6)**
- **Divine (verses 7-13)**

Praiseworthy response (v.14)



NATURAL REVELATION

Assumptions

1. “Heavens” parallel to our “sky”
2. Work of God’s hands “speak”
(Look at variety of language used here—declare, proclaim, speak, reveal knowledge, voice=“line”(v. 4)direction? Course laid out?)





ASSUMPTIONS

- Ancient metaphor and cosmology—notice the sun
- Reflects ancient concepts
- Implication of sun being work of His hands
- Natural revelation prepares one for Torah! Because it too instructs!

VERSE 1



- **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”**
1. **Glory of God(29:3; 63:11; 79:9)**
 2. **Heavens declare (50:6; 96:3; 145:6)**
 3. **Skies proclaim (40:5; 97:6)**
 4. **Anthropomorphism—work of his hands (111:7; 138:8)**

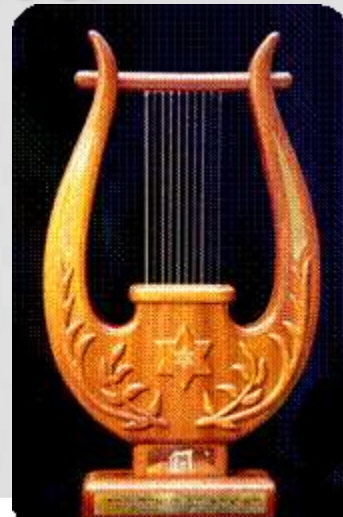
VERSES 2-4

- Day after day...night after night (poetic in nature)
- Utters speech, but no speech or voice is heard
- Refers to silent testimony



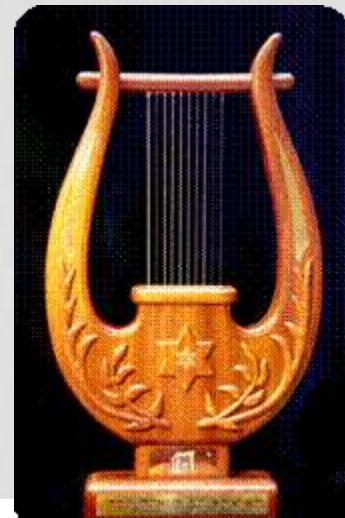
VERSES 2-4

- Actions and deeds can speak
- Knowledge is gained, but with “natural language”
- Through verse 4—how would you frame the unspoken message?



VERSES 5 & 6 --SUN

- **Why references to the sun?**
- **Suddenly emphatically introduced**
- **Dominates the scene, it is obedient!**
- **Assigned a place to occupy**
- **Has a course to run**
- **Whole sky is its tent**



MYTHOLOGY SOURCE?

- Poetic reference to pagan sun-god mythology?
- Returns each night to the ocean and to his bride, and sets out again in the morning.
- Some believe that author was influenced by Near Eastern sun-god literature
- If it is a glance at mythology, it is with the purpose of repudiating it.

METAPHORS

- Like a bridegroom
- Like a champion runner
- The sun is a glorious part of God's handiwork

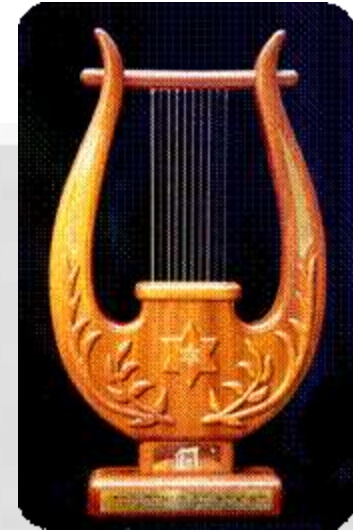


METAPHORS

- “As such, the sun proclaims the extent (6a—one end and circuit to the other) and penetration (6b—nothing is deprived of its warmth) of His rule.”
- Kidner, Derek. (1979). *Psalms 1-72*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, p. 99. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



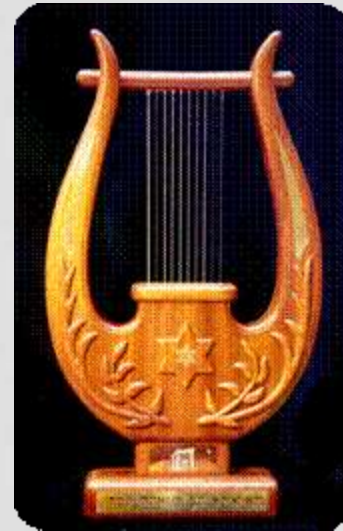
DESCRIPTIONS OF TORAH



- **Verses 7-12**
- Synonyms for Torah:
- Statutes, precepts, commands, decrees, and “fear of the Lord”
- Essential nature of Torah in the 5 dimensions above!

CHARACTERISTICS OF TORAH

- **Perfect**
- **Trustworthy**
- **Right**
- **Radiant**
- **Pure**
- **Firm**



WHAT TORAH CAN DO

- refreshing the soul
- making wise the simple
- giving joy to the heart
- giving light to the eyes
- enduring forever
- all of them are righteous



METAPHORS FOR TORAH

- They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb (v.10)



GUIDANCE OF TORAH



- **By them your servant is warned;**

in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?

(verses 11 and 12a)

PETITIONS BECAUSE OF TORAH



- **Verses 12-14**

- Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from
willful sins;

may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

CONCLUSION



- **14** May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.