

Psalm 19: The Law of the Lord
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Psalm 19 is a song about the law of God. It is in three parts; first, it speaks about the praise the creation brings to the creator; second, a six part song of the law; finally, David reflects on himself as a lawbreaker and his possession of forgiveness.

Part 1: The Glory of the Creation

David begins by saying that the creation proclaims the Creator. Some see this as perhaps a scientific truth, with the unusual language of the line of the sun, and the singing of stars being the pulsars emitted by them. Contextually, it is probably not a “scientific” declaration (although we cannot rule that out), but instead it is a theological declaration. Nature itself is subjected to law; when God created the heavens and earth, He established laws and commandments that creation has obeyed every since (consider Genesis 1:6, 9, 11, etc). Jeremiah speaks of the covenant God made with creation (Jeremiah 33:25) as one with commandments never broken. Nature loves the law of God, and proclaims the glory of the creator.

Part 2: The Song of the Law

Here the law is described with six synonyms, six characteristics, and six benefits:

SYNONYM	CHARACTERISTIC	BENEFIT
Law	Perfect	They restore the soul
Testimony	Sure	They make simple men wise
Precept	Right	They make the heart rejoice
Commandment	Pure	They enlighten the eyes
Fear	Clean	They endure forever
Judgment	True	They are altogether righteous(ness)

The chorus of the song tells us that the law of God is the most valuable and desirable thing we can find; it is more precious than gold and more pleasant than honey.

Part 3: A Precious Law

God’s rules are meant to be precious to us because they bring us good things in our lives and they keep us from destroying ourselves. David can testify to this personally; when keeping God’s law his life was good, and when breaking it he suffered immensely. With this in mind David brings up three types of sins he seeks to be forgiven.

First, David asks for forgiveness from secret sins, sins that he had even hidden from himself. Perhaps this are similar to his sins of youth mentioned in Psalm 25:7. We often ask God to forgive sins we do not recall committing, and here David does this very thing. Second, David asks for forgiveness from presumptuous sins, perhaps similar or the same as the willful sins mentioned in Hebrews 10:26. Finally, David seeks forgiveness from great sins. Thus he seeks to be cleansed of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)