

The Heavens Within  
United Church of Broomfield  
January 23, 2022

Psalms 19 (NJKV)

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
And the firmament shows His handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech,  
And night unto night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> *There is* no speech nor language  
*Where* their voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through all the earth,  
And their words to the end of the world.

In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup> Which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising *is* from one end of heaven,  
And its circuit to the other end;  
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul;  
The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever;  
The judgments of the Lord *are* true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired *are they* than gold,  
Yea, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover by them Your servant is warned,  
And in keeping them *there is* great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can understand *his* errors?  
Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

<sup>13</sup> Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*;  
Let them not have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
And I shall be innocent of [\[g\]](#) great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

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“God, the LORD, created the heavens and stretched them out. God created the earth and everything in it.” (Isa 42:5) “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands.” (Ps 19:1) “..The whole earth is filled with God’s glory!” (Ps 72:19 NIV)

Have you ever had the opportunity to escape the light pollution of the city – go into the mountains, the desert or the plains - and just gaze into the heavens? The stars appear so much brighter and so close, so much so that if you just reached out your hand you could grab one. It can be so spectacular that you can’t help but think, “There is no way that this could have just happened on its own. It’s just too magnificent to be the result of random chance.”

I’ve had the pleasure of such an experience; many of such experiences, actually. In them, God has shown me a tiny glimmer of Her glory and fed a hunger in me to pursue knowing the God of all creation, especially during what feels like never-ending turmoil and trouble. During difficult times, experiencing the glory of God is not only humbling, but also uplifting.

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The glory of God is best described as God’s beauty. God is omnificent (unlimited in creative power) [omniscient/omnipotent]. God is the magnificent, all creative Beautiful God. Yet, how can one really define what beauty is? Every human being will see the beauty of something differently than another. There is no established precedent or pattern of beauty that one can say God is like - and if there was - it would be ... God.

Beauty is the possession and characteristic of God and is one of the qualities which are distinctive of God. It is what emphasizes the form in which God reveals Herself in the external manifestation of His presence, and the quality of Her greatness, authority, dignity, preeminence, power, perfection, and majesty. WHAT AN EPIPHANY.

“To you, O God, belong the greatness and the might,  
the glory, the victory, the majesty, the splendor;  
Yes! Everything in heaven, everything on earth;  
the kingdom all yours! You’ve raised yourself high over all.  
Riches and glory come from you,  
you’re ruler over all;  
You hold strength and power in the palm of your hand  
to build up and strengthen all.  
And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you,  
praising your splendid Name.” (1 Chron 29:11-13 MSG)

The word “Glory” is used in the Bible to describe God’s beauty and comes from the Hebrew word “Kabhod” and the Greek word “Doxa” which are most often translated throughout the Bible to convey God’s wealth, perfection of character, splendor, majesty, abundance, and honor as well as to convey the ecstasy found in Heaven.

The root meaning of the word denotes weight, or heaviness, size, rarity, beauty, brilliance, brightness, desire, and adornment. This divine quality is beyond human understanding and deserve so many adjectives because “The Lord is high over all the nations; God’s glory is higher than the skies! Who could possibly compare to the Lord our God? God rules from on high; God has to come down to even see heaven and earth! (Ps 113:4-6 CEB) Yet, this Beautiful God longs for every person on this planet to come to know God in deep intimacy.

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Deeply rooted in every human heart is an unquenchable longing for beauty, a God-given sense that beauty must have a meaning that is larger and more permanent than ones-self. It can both lure and arouse for pleasure, delight, joy, and even bring relaxation.

Every person longs to observe and be a part of beauty as they seek for a rare glimpse of greatness and yearn for a vision of glory. People are moved by music - the words of a poet - the work of an artist - a newborn child - the uniqueness of all living creatures - the multicolored hues of a sunset - the brilliance of a sun rise - the majesty of mountain peaks - the melodic sound of a waterfall - the wind rustling through the leaves - the simplicity of a flower - the lightness of a snowflake. These things cultivate one's sensory awareness and expands the consciousness in a way that creates an ever-deepening appreciation of creation. Yet, they are all but token twinkles and shimmering shadows of the beauty of God that has been inextricably woven through the fabric of all creation.

Beauty is the universal foundation of all things. It is transcendent by nature. The beauty and glory of God is far greater and far surpassing any earthly beauty one could ever know. Everything about God is beautiful. Her power is beautiful. His love is beautiful. Their mercy is beautiful. Beauty is rooted in Him. She is the foundation of all beauty in the universe. God's beauty is what makes the Creator worthy of worship. Beauty begins and ends in God. God is the revelation of all that is good, loving, and kind. God's signs Her name using the brilliant colors and hues of a rainbow and uses beauty as His messenger, declaring across the universe that the Creator is "altogether lovely" (Song 5:16 KJV).

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The ancient Greeks used the word "Beautiful" interchangeably with the words "Excellent", "Perfection", and "Satisfying". Beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder and yet it is not dependent upon - or affected by - anyone's perception of it. The beauty of a work of art is not based in the individual colors used, or its shape and texture. The beauty is found in the harmony of how each element exists in relationship with the others. Beauty is the manifestation of the Spirit of God that animates all of reality.

It was the beauty of Jesus that caused the disciples to drop everything and follow Him. It wasn't His looks that drew them to Him. It was His mystical beauty and charisma, the wondrous fragrance of love that emanates from Him and ever consumes those who draw closer and closer as they take on His fragrance and His beauty.<sup>1</sup>

The Bible says that God has clearly revealed Herself to every human being since time began in the beauty of the heavens, "Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—God's eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse."<sup>2</sup> God chose at times in the past to reveal God's glory and perfection to humanity in a visible way, such as the pillar of cloud and fire,<sup>3</sup> the deliverance of the Israelites at the parting of the Red Sea, and God's glory in the Tabernacle<sup>4</sup> and Temple<sup>5</sup> because the Creator desires to have an intimate relationship with every person on this planet. God's original desire was for Her Glory to always dwell with humanity.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Cor. 2:14

<sup>2</sup> Rom 1:20

<sup>3</sup> Exod 13:21

<sup>4</sup> Lev 9:23-24

<sup>5</sup> 1 Kings 8:11

The beauty of God has been shown in Jesus because He is “the light of God’s glory and the imprint of God’s being (Heb 1:3). Jesus “became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from God, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) Jesus reveals His beauty through miraculous signs and wonders so that His followers will continually put their “faith in him”. (John 2:11 NIV) All His followers share in that beauty. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”. Because Jesus willingly offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice, God's secret wisdom, “a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began” has been “revealed”... “to us by his Spirit”. (1 Cor 2:6-10 NIV)

All of God’s children reflect “the Lord's glory” and “are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18 NIV) Every Christian is the house of His glorious beauty, the “temple of the Holy Spirit”. (1 Cor 6:19 KJV) **You are a reflection of God’s glory!** God said, “I will glorify the house of My glory”. (Isa 60:7 NKJV) God imparts to His house the beauty and majesty which belong to Him. They take on the brilliance of Her nature and character! They share in the heavenly glory and partake of His divine nature! They are the Glory of God! They are Her manifest presence! They are also His beautiful bride! The Beautiful God has given them His glory!

The incredibly Beautiful God is seen as a reflection through humanity. If a person wants to be a clear and brilliant reflection of God’s beauty in a dark and ugly world, it begins when they walk in humility by following the Way of Jesus. They must be selfless and value compassionate love for ALL of creation. They must “set [their] hearts on things above”... “not on earthly things.” Pride and unforgiveness causes the brilliance to dim. It dulls the image and fogs God’s reflection like the steam rising from a long hot shower fogs a bathroom mirror.

The majestic God, who created the universe with all its galaxies and solar systems, longs to know every human being intimately - and Jesus died to prove it. By setting the heart on those things that have eternal value and releasing the cares of this world by trusting in the Creator, Christians will become a true reflection of the wondrous brilliance of His beauty.

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"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." (v.14) It is no coincidence that the last verse of this Psalm refers to the "Lord" and the "Redeemer." That is exactly who Jesus is-our Lord and our Redeemer. You see, Jesus is the ultimate and the greatest revelation of God.

Hebrews 1:1-2 says: "God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by the Son, whom God has appointed heir of all things, through whom also God made the worlds." God saved Her best word for last when She sent the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Jn. 14:9, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

In the Lord Jesus we discover all of God we can know. In the Lord Jesus we have all of God we need. Yes, in the skies we see God's greatness. Yes, in the Scriptures we see God's grace. Yes, in the soul we see God's goodness. But in the Savior we see God's glory.

One of the greatest testimonies you will ever hear is that of astronaut Jim Erwin, who talked about an experience he had when he went to the moon.

He said: "When I looked out and saw the earth, only as big as a little marble, I thought, how big am I? I'm just a speck of dust-if that big-compared to the universe. And yet, this little speck has the capacity to know God! To

know the One who holds the universe, to know God's love, and have God's direction. For the first time, I saw and felt God's love for the earth...I realized then that God loved that little blue marble, that little planet. He loved all the billions of people on it, and He loved me! I realized at that moment that my relationship with Jesus Christ was the most precious thing I had.<sup>6</sup>

Look up. There is a God in the heavens who created the heavens. See the beauty and the magnificence. Because of such brilliance and grace that we know as Jesus Christ, the God we can see above us, and the God we can see around us, is the God we can have within us. AMEN

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<sup>6</sup> Dave Dean, *Now is Your Time to Win*, p. 122.