

DAVID

The Prayers of the King
Pastor's Bible Study 2020
By Dr. Bob Fuller

EPISODE 2: KNOWING GOD

I. INTRODUCTION: HOW DID DAVID KNOW GOD?

II. PSALM 19

- a. This Psalm is not attached to any specific event in David's life. Rather it is a meditation on Revelation.
- b. *Epistemology* is the study of "how we know what we know."
- c. Theologians describe God's self revelation in two phases. The First is called General or Natural Revelation. The Second is called Special or Supernatural Revelation.

III. PSALM 19: OUTLINE

- a. NATURAL (GENERAL) REVELATION (19:1–6)
 - i. **Where is this revelation?** (19:1–2, 4–6): The heavens, including the sun, tell of God's glory.
 - ii. **Who sees this revelation?** (19:3–4): People all over the world can see this "soundless sermon."
- b. SUPERNATURAL(SPECIAL) REVELATION (19:7–14)
 - i. **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.
 - ii. **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.

IV. HOW DO WE GET TO KNOW GOD? David tells us that there are two ways we get to know God.

- a. **General Revelation:** the ordinary things of life and through creation.
 - i. Psalm 19:1 states: "*The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*"
 - ii. The Shepherd's Faith
- b. **Special Revelation**
 - i. God has provided us with a more accurate way of knowing him. Psalm 19:7 says "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*"
 - ii. Romans 1: 21-22
- c. Types of Special Revelation
 - i. Hebrews 1:1-4

- ii. God revealed Himself through his Word: The Law and the Prophets.
- iii. The Word Made Flesh: Jesus Christ
- iv. The Holy Spirit
- d. **The Content of Special Revelation** God's Special Revelation in Scripture Tells us things we cannot figure out on our own. Everyone gets General Revelation, but everyone needs special revelation to make sense of what they see and experience through the lens of God's ultimate truth.
- e. David was steeped in God's Special Revelation.
 - i. **David's Bible was the Torah**
 - ii. **Samuel (and later Nathan)**
 - iii. **The Holy Spirit**:¹³ *Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16:13). Indeed the Holy Spirit spoke directly to David as he composed the Psalms (including this one he wrote about knowing God)!*

V. **PSALM 149: KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF GOD:** For David—the Rational Response to the Revelation of God is Worship.

VI. OUTLINE PSALM 149

- a. GOD'S GREATNESS (145:1–6)
 - i. **Its depth** (145:1–3): No one can fathom it.
 - ii. **Its breadth** (145:4–6): God's greatness is extolled universally by each generation.
- b. GOD'S GOODNESS (145:7–10)
 - i. **He is slow to anger** (145:8): He is kind, merciful, and full of love.
 - ii. **He is good to all** (145:7, 9–10): He showers compassion on all creation.
- c. GOD'S GLORY (145:11–13): God's divine kingdom is glorious.
 - i. **Its dynamics** (145:11–12): It will be filled with majesty and splendor.
 - ii. **Its duration** (145:13): It will be an everlasting kingdom.
- d. GOD'S GUARANTEE (145:13): "The LORD is faithful in all he says; he is gracious in all he does."
- e. GOD'S GRACE (145:14–21)
 - i. **He lifts up the fallen** (145:14): He lifts those bent beneath their loads.
 - ii. **He feeds the hungry** (145:15–18): He satisfies the thirst of every living thing.
 - iii. **He rescues the persecuted** (145:19–21): The Lord protects all who fear him but destroys the wicked.

VII. **Knowing God and Loving God:** The more we learn about God, the more we love him.