

## Waltke, Psalms, Session 27, Resources from Notebooklm

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Waltke, Psalms, Session 27, Wisdom Psalms Genre, Psalm 19, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Bruce Waltke's lecture** analyzes Psalm 19, a wisdom psalm, exploring its structure and meaning. **He examines** the psalm's praise of God's creation and revelation, interpreting the text **exegetically, considering its messianic implications**, and discussing its personal application. **Waltke emphasizes** the psalm's themes of God's comprehensive knowledge and the moral perfection of Torah, **connecting these concepts** to the believer's need for God's forgiveness and protection from sin and apostasy. Finally, **he draws parallels** between Psalm 19's prayers and the Lord's Prayer, highlighting the shared theme of dependence on God's grace.

**2. 17-minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Waltke's, Psalms, Session 27 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Psalms → Waltke).**



**Waltke\_Psalms\_Session27\_Wisdom\_Ps19.mp**

### 3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Bruce Waltke's lecture on Psalm 19:

#### **Briefing Document: Dr. Bruce Waltke on Psalm 19**

**Source:** Excerpts from "Waltke\_Psalms\_EN\_Lecture27.pdf"

**Date:** 2024

**Overview:** This lecture by Dr. Bruce Waltke focuses on Psalm 19, classifying it as a "Wisdom Psalm" that blends elements of Torah and instruction. Waltke breaks down the psalm into sections, examining its historical-interpretive exegesis, its relation to Christ, and its personal application for believers. The core idea is that Psalm 19 reveals God's glory through both general revelation (creation) and special revelation (Torah), and emphasizes a unified wisdom perspective. The psalm moves from praising God's omniscience to the moral excellence of His Torah, culminating in a plea for forgiveness and preservation.

#### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

1. **Wisdom and Torah Psalms:** Waltke connects Psalm 19 to other wisdom and Torah Psalms like Psalms 1, 49 and 73, emphasizing their role in admonition and instruction, as well as addressing the problem of the prosperity of the wicked. He highlights that Torah psalms are not just legalistic texts but also sources of wisdom and guidance.
  - *"In the last lecture, we introduced the genre and basically it pertains to Psalms that give us admonition, both positive and also theodical Psalms that warn us not to envy the prosperity of the wicked."*
  - *"And so, we looked at the very first lecture about Psalm 1, which was a Torah Psalm... And so I thought we would do another one like Psalm 19, which is a Torah Psalm and an instruction Psalm."*
1. **General Revelation (Creation):** The first part of Psalm 19 (verses 1-6) praises God's knowledge and glory as displayed through creation (the firmament, sun). Waltke emphasizes the universality of this revelation in both time and space.
  - *"The firmament declares God's glory and God's glory is his comprehensive knowledge...both day and night, ever, always, he is revealing his glory and his knowledge."*

- *"Their voice goes out throughout all the earth and their words to the ends of the world."*
  - *"In the second strophe, he focuses on the sun, which again is comprehensive in space."*
  - Waltke uses the metaphors of the sun as a bridegroom (freshness, beauty) and a strong man (vigor, joy) to illustrate the power and exuberance of God's creation.
  - *"One is that he pictures the sun as a bridegroom. And the simile suggests to me that it speaks of the sun's freshness, newness, beauty, vigor, and joy. And the second one, he's a strong man."*
1. **Connection Between General and Special Revelation:** Waltke argues that God's knowledge revealed through creation underscores his ability to provide moral revelation through Scripture (Torah). He sees a unified wisdom perspective where knowledge of God's power informs our understanding of His moral commands.
    - *"It's not just simply praise for two kinds of revelation. But I think the point of it is that as well, because of his knowledge in general revelation, therefore, he's able to give certain moral revelation in Holy Scripture."*
    - *"And here, because he's created everything, here again, we get the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. So, it seems to be that sort of logic of the wisdom thinker."*
  1. **Special Revelation (Torah):** The second part of Psalm 19 (verses 7-11) details the moral perfections of Torah using seven descriptions, emphasizing its completeness, reliability, uprightness, purity, cleanliness, firmness, and righteousness.
    - *"He basically almost exhausts the vocabulary of Torah...His essence is its moral perfections. It's complete, it's flawless, it's righteous, it's eternal."*
    - *"The law of the Lord is perfect, by which he means it is complete...It is a crime to add to it, treason to alter it, and a felony to take from it."*
    - *"When he says it's pure, the Hebrew word means it's scoured until it shines...it is clean. By that, he means there is no mixture in it. And because there is no impurities in it, it endures forever."*

1. **Torah's Rewards:** Waltke explains that the rewards of Torah are essentially wisdom's rewards, which lead to life itself: reviving the soul, making the simple wise, rejoicing the heart, and enlightening the eyes. He notes that these rewards depend on a right heart which interprets the objective truth subjectively.
  - *"Torah's reward is, he says, that it revives the soul...It is the testimony of the Lord making wise the simple...It rejoices the heart. And of course, this assumes a right heart...Then it says that it enlightens the eye."*
  - *"So, you come to art, it's both an objective and subjective experience. And so, there's the reality, the objective reality, but the way you see it depends upon your heart."*
  - *"Then he says, it is sweeter than drippings from the honeycomb...So, he's responding as a saint, the way a saint looks at Torah and its benefactions."*
1. **Prayer for Forgiveness and Preservation:** The psalm concludes with a prayer for forgiveness of hidden sins and protection from "insolent men" (verses 12-14), emphasizing the need for God's help to avoid apostasy and maintain a right relationship with Him.
  - *"His first prayer is for hidden sins...And the other one is to be kept from insolent men."*
  - *"That God forgives our hidden sins because it becomes part of the canon...His second request is that God hold him back from the rule of insolent men."*
  - *"And I suggested that none is free from the danger of apostasy...I think we all know that it takes the grace of God to persevere in the faith."*
  - *"What he's asking is, don't allow me to break my relationship with you. Keep me from apostasy."*
1. **Personal Application:** Waltke uses the psalm to encourage a daily engagement with God's word, recognizing our dependence on God's grace. He connects the psalm to the Lord's Prayer, particularly the phrase "lead us not into temptation," emphasizing our need for God's protection from sin and apostasy.
  - *"Elaine and I begin every morning with our Lord's liturgy and we ask God to forgive us all of our sins...and we're in constant need of forgiveness."*
  - *"This is not legalism. He is not striving on his own to keep the law. He's totally dependent upon God."*

- *"I'm finding myself wondering, is Jesus teaching us to pray the same thing that David is praying here? That keep us from apostatizing, keep us from dealing with Satan who we can't deal with on our own. Yeah."*
- 1. **Christological Connection:** Waltke briefly touches on a Christological reading of the psalm, connecting the creation to Christ as the agent through whom it was made (John 1) and how revelation in creation makes us "without excuse."
- *"So far as it refers to Christ, as I would think of it, that in John 1, Christ is the word that brought about the creation, that he is the agent of the creation through whom it is accomplished."*
- *"And the moral, I think I would bring in here what we did in Psalm 8 is that this revelation is so glorious you're without excuse for not responding to the creator."*

**Conclusion:** Dr. Waltke's lecture on Psalm 19 elucidates the psalm's profound theological insights. It highlights the interconnectedness of God's revelation in creation and Scripture, and its practical relevance for believers seeking to live according to His will. The psalm's movement from praise to prayer underscores our dependence on God for both forgiveness and strength in the face of temptation.

This analysis captures the major points of Waltke's interpretation of Psalm 19. Let me know if you need any additional information.

## 4. Psalms Study Guide: Session 27, Wisdom Psalms Genre, Psalm 19

### Psalm 19: A Study Guide

#### Short Answer Quiz

1. What are the two primary subjects of praise in Psalm 19, and what is the implied relationship between them?
2. How does Waltke describe the communication of God's glory in the first strophe (verses 1-4)? What are the two kinds of universality he identifies within the firmament's praise?
3. What metaphors or similes does the psalm use to describe the sun, and what do these figures suggest about its nature?
4. According to Waltke, how does the New Testament's view of Christ connect to the revelation of God in creation as expressed in Psalm 19?
5. In Psalm 19, how does the psalm describe the perfection of God's Torah (law) and what are the seven moral excellences identified?
6. What does Waltke suggest about the meaning of the Hebrew word translated as "simple" ( *peti* ) in Psalm 19 and how does it differ from its usage in Proverbs?
7. How does the psalm describe the "rewards" of Torah, and what does Waltke mean by both objective and subjective elements of this reward?
8. According to Waltke, what are the two petitions in David's prayer, and why are these requests significant in light of human nature?
9. How does Waltke interpret the "great transgression" ( *pashah* ) mentioned in Psalm 19, and why is David so concerned about it?
10. How does Waltke relate the final prayer of the psalmist to the Lord's prayer, and what does it imply about human dependence on God?

#### Answer Key

1. Psalm 19 praises God for His glory in creation (general revelation) and for His Torah (special revelation). The implied relationship is that God's knowledge displayed in creation enables Him to give moral revelation through scripture.

2. Waltke describes the communication as silent yet universally understood. The two universalities are temporal (always, through day and night) and spatial (reaching to the ends of the earth).
3. The sun is pictured as a bridegroom (fresh, new, beautiful, vigorous, and joyful) and a strong runner (both a sprinter and a long-distance runner), emphasizing its exuberance, strength, and universality.
4. Waltke points out that the New Testament identifies Christ as the agent of creation, and therefore the praise of the creation is ultimately a praise of Christ the creator. He notes that this revelation is so glorious that no one has an excuse for not responding to the creator.
5. The psalm describes the Torah as perfect (complete), sure (reliable), upright (faultless), pure (scoured), clean (without mixture), true (firm), and righteous (in line with God's character).
6. In Psalm 19, "simple" refers to being open to instruction from God. In Proverbs it refers to a fool who is open to everything and committed to nothing, while the psalms use it to refer to one who is open to learn and grow.
7. The rewards of the Torah include reviving the soul, making the simple wise, rejoicing the heart, and enlightening the eyes. The objective aspect is the Torah itself, while the subjective is how one's heart receives it.
8. David prays for forgiveness of hidden sins (sins one is not consciously aware of) and for God to keep him from insolent men (those who break away from God). These are significant because human beings are prone to sin and apostasy.
9. The "great transgression" ( *pashah* ) is rebellion against God, breaking faith with Him, and ultimately apostasy, indicating a complete break with God rather than simply a wrong act.
10. Waltke suggests that the final prayer, asking God to be his rock and redeemer, is similar to the sentiment in the Lord's Prayer where we recognize our weakness and ask God not to lead us into temptation, showing a deep dependence on God for salvation and perseverance.

### Essay Questions

1. Analyze the relationship between general revelation (creation) and special revelation (Torah) in Psalm 19, drawing upon Waltke's interpretation. How does this relationship inform our understanding of God's nature and will?

2. Discuss the significance of the metaphors used to describe both the firmament and the sun in Psalm 19, and how these metaphors contribute to the psalm's overall message about God's knowledge and power. How do these metaphors relate to Christ?
3. Explore the seven perfections of God's law, as described in Psalm 19, and explain why these perfections are essential for understanding the nature and purpose of the Torah. Include the idea of the subjective and objective aspects of Torah.
4. Compare and contrast the use of the word "simple" in Psalm 19 and Proverbs, according to Waltke's explanation. What does this difference reveal about the nature of wisdom in these two books?
5. Explain the importance of David's prayer in Psalm 19 for hidden sins and protection from insolent men, and how this prayer reveals key insights into human nature and the need for divine grace and dependence on God.



## Glossary of Key Terms

**General Revelation:** God's self-disclosure through nature, creation, and the observable world.

**Special Revelation:** God's self-disclosure through specific means like the Bible, prophets, and Jesus Christ.

**Torah:** Hebrew for "law" or "instruction," referring to the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch) or to God's teaching more broadly.

**Strophe:** A structural division of a poem, often a verse, stanza, or a group of verses forming a distinct unit.

**Omniscience:** The quality of knowing everything; God's infinite knowledge.

**Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final destiny of humanity and the world.

**Messianic:** Relating to the Messiah, the promised deliverer of the Jewish people.

**Apostasy:** The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief. **Peti:** Hebrew word that translates to "simple" and has different meanings in different contexts, especially Proverbs vs. Psalms.

**Pashah:** Hebrew word often translated as "rebellion," but with deeper implications of breaking faith and relationship with God.

## 5. FAQ on Themes from Dr. Bruce Waltke's Psalms, Session 27, Wisdom Psalms Genre, Psalm 19

Okay, here's an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source, formatted with markdown:

### FAQ on Psalm 19 (Based on Dr. Bruce Waltke's Lecture)

1. **What is the main structure and theme of Psalm 19, and how does it relate to wisdom thinking?**
2. Psalm 19 is structured around two main themes: the revelation of God's glory through creation (general revelation) and the moral perfection of God's Torah (special revelation). It's not just two separate acts of praise but rather a unified concept in wisdom thinking. The psalm argues that God's comprehensive knowledge displayed in creation is the basis for His moral authority revealed in Scripture. In other words, because God is all-knowing through His works of creation, His commands are to be trusted and obeyed.
3. **How does the first section of Psalm 19 (verses 1-6) describe God's revelation in creation, and what does it emphasize about God's knowledge?**
4. This section emphasizes the continuous and universal nature of God's revelation through the heavens and the sun. The firmament declares God's glory, highlighting his comprehensive knowledge. This revelation is both temporal, happening day and night, and spatial, reaching the ends of the earth. The sun is portrayed as a powerful, exuberant, and tireless force, further illustrating the magnitude and scope of God's creative power and knowledge.
5. **In what ways does Psalm 19 describe the nature of the Torah (God's law)?**
6. The psalm emphasizes the Torah's moral perfections, describing it as perfect (complete), sure (reliable), upright (faultless), pure (scoured until it shines), clean (unmixed), true (unchangeable), and righteous (conforming to God's character). These attributes paint a picture of God's law as flawless, trustworthy, and eternally relevant, contrasting human judgement as unreliable.
7. **What are the rewards of engaging with God's Torah according to Psalm 19?**

8. The psalm highlights several rewards for embracing God's Torah. It revives the soul by restoring vitality, makes the simple wise by providing life skills, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, and is more desirable than gold, and sweeter than honey. These rewards showcase that engaging with God's word is not merely about following rules but is a source of renewal, wisdom, joy, and deep satisfaction. The Torah gives not just the basics but a flourishing life.
9. **Why does the Psalmist ask for forgiveness of "hidden sins" in Psalm 19, and what does this reveal about human nature?**
10. The Psalmist recognizes that even unintentional or hidden sins require forgiveness and demonstrates an awareness of human depravity. Because these hidden sins are unknown to the individual, they cannot confess or renounce them specifically. Therefore, the psalmist acknowledges that a comprehensive plea for forgiveness is necessary because we are constantly in need of God's grace. He recognizes that sin permeates even the thoughts and actions that are hidden.
11. **What is the significance of the Psalmist's plea to be kept back from "insolent men" or the "great transgression"?**
12. The request to be kept back from insolent men is a plea for God's protection against apostasy. This "great transgression" is defined as rebellion against God's rule which ultimately leads to breaking the relationship with God. This highlights that believers are not immune to turning away from God. This dependence emphasizes the need for God's continuous grace and protection in maintaining faith and avoiding such a destructive break.
13. **How does the Psalmist's concluding prayer in Psalm 19 highlight dependence on God, and how does it relate to legalism?** The final prayer highlights a deep dependence on God. The Psalmist describes God as his rock and redeemer, demonstrating that he does not strive to obey the law through his own power but through God's power. This underscores that obedience is not legalistic, instead it is done through God's grace and dependence on Him for salvation and spiritual strength.
14. **How does the idea of "leading us not into temptation" in the Lord's Prayer connect to the themes in Psalm 19?**

15. The concept of "leading us not into temptation" in the Lord's Prayer parallels the prayer in Psalm 19 to be kept from the "great transgression". Both prayers express an understanding of human weakness, the inability to handle temptation, and the need for divine help to remain faithful. The prayer acknowledges our inability to persevere in faith without God's protection from spiritual dangers, both from our own sinful hearts and external forces.