

Psalm and Readings Wednesday 12th January 2022

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his
wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Genesis 2:4-end

These are the generations of the heavens and the
earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and
the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in
the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung
up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain
upon the earth, and there was no one to till the
ground; but a stream would rise from the earth,
and water the whole face of the ground— then
the Lord God formed man from the dust of the
ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath
of life; and the man became a living being. And
the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the
east; and there he put the man whom he had
formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to
grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and
good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of
the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of
good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and
from there it divides and becomes four branches.
The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that
flows around the whole land of Havilah, where
there is gold; and the gold of that land is good;
bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of
the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows
around the whole land of Cush. The name of the
third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.
And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the
garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord
God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of
every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the
knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for
in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the
man should be alone; I will make him a helper as
his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God
formed every animal of the field and every bird of
the air, and brought them to the man to see what
he would call them; and whatever the man called
each living creature, that was its name. The man

gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.’

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Matthew 21:33-end

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.