

The Map and the Mapmaker
Psalm 19:7-14

In Psalm 19, David looks at God's word as the ultimate life-saving map for the human soul provided by the Soul Maker.

David uses six distinctive words to describe the word of God, and each description is followed with a reminder of the unique capacity of God's word to impact our lives for the better:

(1) Law (Torah) – An authoritative guide, mapping out the path for holy living. (2) Statutes –God's word is trustworthy like the testimony of a witness in court who has sworn an oath. (3) Precepts –God's word includes every detail we need to stay on the path. (4) Commands –God's word is the absolute authority. There is no ambiguity. Truth without any mixture of error. (5) Fear –God's word is the manual that teaches genuine, heart-felt reverence for God. (6) Decrees – Judicial decisions, verdicts. His word is like decisions handed down by the divine Judge.

God's word is not a list of rules but a complete, exhaustive database of everything we might need to know or could ever want to know about the language of the soul, of life, of heaven itself.

But David also acknowledges that it is limited. He refers to "hidden faults" and "willful sins." God is so pure and holy, and people are so thoroughly permeated and saturated by sin that even when we think we have done everything right, there are still parts of our lives that are thoroughly unacceptable and disgusting to God of which we are totally unaware and for which we need atonement.

Here David's praise of the Mapmaker comes in. God is our "Rock." He is an elevated, defensive stronghold and stable ground. God's word tells us where to stand. We are grateful for His word, but God Himself is our Rock. Calling God our "Redeemer" reminds us that, though perfectly warned, we still fall into the enemy's hands. But the Lord never lets us stay there. In Christ, God is our Redeemer. He has paid for our release. God Himself has secured our freedom by the blood of the Lamb.