

Linear and Non-linear Representations
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From Psalm 19. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 1: REPRESENTATIONS ARE PRECONDITIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING v.1-6.

#1. The Almighty has created a gulf between the world of objects--the world of things--and the human mind. This stipulated "distance" can only be bridged by representations.

#2. There are two kinds of representations: linear and non-linear.

#3. The difference between the two is of the greatest importance.

#4. Both are necessary to us, but they always overlap. David, the psalmist, understood the distinction very well.

#5. One can observe the heavens and detect their movements. And one can predict that the sun will "rise" in the morning. One can predict the phases of the moon. These are linear representations. They are good, helpful and useful. But they offer no meaning; just mechanics.

#6. Non-linear representations come from somewhere else and they supply the meaning. Revealed truth, the Word of God, the Scriptures are non-linear in purpose.

#7. "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" v.1. The mechanical behavior of the celestial is *bounded* by the preconditions of non-linear representations.

#8. These two kinds of understanding capture all human circumstances. The diagnosis is rendered, and outcomes are predicted as necessary. Linear representations tend to have *immediate credibility* with us; because we generate them. Yet, David reminds us that non-linear representations set the preconditions for understanding.

#9. The promises of God are non-linear; the miracles are non-linear resolutions of material condition; prayer seeks non-linear effects.

#10. Linear ideas if isolated from revelation propose that the universe functions as a mechanical structure or a machine. However, the biblical revealed non-linear terms teach us that the universe, indeed, functions as a revelation from God.

From Psalm 19. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 2: THE VERY PERSONAL RESULT v.14.

#1. Non-linear representations come from beyond the temporal dimension. The only antecedent such meanings have is eternal and absolute.

#2. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer" v.14.

#3. The textual terms prescribe the development of
(a) Non-linear language use and
(b) Non-linear thought management. Once those are actional, then
(c) Non-linear behavior is certain.

#4. Such very personal results are "acceptable in Your sight" --Easy to talk about and hard to do.

#5. David instructs that language, reasoning and behavior (3 phases of obedience) are to be subject to the preconditions of revealed meaning. That makes them non-linear.

#6. The highest spiritual achievement possible, in this world, is the generation of non-linear reasoning and behavior.

#7. It often occurs that biblical faith and Scripture are constrained by an overruling line of reasoning anchored in linear representations.

#8. In the churches this dependence on linear representations is considered to be "acceptable". This psalm encourages believers to recognize (v.1-6) that the material universe and nature are not absolute nor determinant. Nor are our material, historical conditions. Those distinctions belong to the Almighty alone.

#9. If that be true, then, human situations, circumstances, events and states of being are to be perceived as bounded by revealed pre-conditions. Linear representations, founded upon human experience and confident in natural outcomes are control measures for our reading of the Bible. Linear representations repress biblical faith.

From Psalm 19. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 3: DESCRIPTION and MEANING v.7-9.

#1. The biblical record demonstrates the strong human proclivity to prefer and trust in description over revealed meaning. Description is the product of linear representations.

#2. This explains the faith failure of Genesis 3; the paralyzing fear at Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 13, 14), Abraham's faithlessness in the Hagar incident (Genesis 16), Peter's reticence to walk on the water (Matthew 14), the disciples' expectation that the Lord was still in the tomb (Luke 24).

#3. The Word of God is calculated to displace confidence in descriptions and enlarge trust in non-linear revealed representations.

#4. Here is how it brings us to a non-linear cognitive state of mind:

- (A)"The law of the Lord" (v.7) imposes rules and mandates, fully independent of time, situation and human experience. "Restoring the soul".
- (B)"The testimony of the Lord" (v.7) puts into evidence the revealed thought form, about everything. It "is sure, making wise the simple".
- (C)"The precepts of the Lord" (v.8) regulate thought, speech and behavior, enabling advanced understanding. They are "right, rejoicing the heart".
- (D)"The commandment of the Lord" (v.8), resolves ambiguity and sets the course. It "is pure, enlightening the eyes".
- (E)"The fear of the Lord" (v.9) precludes miscreant behavior. It "is clean, enduring forever".
- (F)"The judgments of the Lord" (v.9) expose lies, falsehood and the trap of linear thinking. They "are true; they are righteous altogether".

#5. When trouble materializes, the first thing that comes to one's notice is the patently obvious description. Given the description, one then, predicts an outcome. Non-linear reasoning from the word of God, however, knows that redemption is never inherent in the situation. It comes into circumstance from outside the description. Descriptions are inevitable, but, they are bounded by revealed truth.

From Psalm 19. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.

PART 4: THE VALUE OF NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS v.10-13.

#1. David made a significant statement regarding the Word of God. "The Law of the Lord" v.7, "The testimony of the Lord" v.7, "The precepts of the Lord" v.8, "The commandment of the Lord" v.8, "The fear of the Lord" v.9, "The judgment of the Lord" v.9, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb" v.10.

#2. The author contends that revelation carries the believer beyond the limits of human lived experience (gold) and the realm of the sensory (honey). That is also its biggest inconvenience.

#3. The value of non-linear representations is that they can lift one out of the constrictions of linear reasoning and behavior.

#4. This is how it works. Linear reasoning comes to bear upon Scripture and thereby unfortunately puts limitations on its inherent meaning. The grammatical structure of revelation is enveloped in linear constraints. The non-linear is smothered. The human mind governs the text. Nothing is gained; much is lost.

#5. But when non-linear revealed representations come to bear upon human reasoning, then everything changes.

#6. The believer is "warned" v.11, "great reward" is the derivative of obedience v.11, it "Acquits me of hidden faults" v.12, rationalizations ("presumptuous sins") are rooted out v.13, "blameless (ness)" is secured v.13, "great transgressions" are "acquitted." v.13.

#7. Reading the Bible is a crossroads. Either human wisdom (linearity) comes to bear upon scripture or non-linear revealed representations come to bear upon the human mind. The latter is the norm and the former is scandalous.

From Psalm 19. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.

PART 5: FAITH FOLLOWS THE NON-LINEAR.

#1. The universe is the result of material linear forces (cosmic evolution) or it came about by the non-linear power of God, Genesis 1, 2.

#2. Abraham and Sarai would have remained childless without non-linear intervention into their biology (Genesis 12:1-4).

#3. David did not defeat Goliath by linear means, 1 Samuel 17.

#4. By the non-linear Hanna conceived, 1 Samuel 1.

#5. The Israelite desert generation did not escape Egypt, cross the Red Sea, survive Sinai without the enablement of something non-linear, Exodus 1-15.

#6. Jesus turned water into wine by non-linear force, John 2:1-11.

#7. The miracles are nothing but non-linearity.

#8. The "blessings" of God, that we cherish, are the non-linear conditioning of our circumstances, Numbers 6:22-27.

#9. There can be no other conclusion: biblical faith follows the Non-linear. Yet, rationalism has all but triumphed. Scripture is often read as nothing more than history.

#10. And so, David sat down to write..."The heavens are telling of the glory of God"..."The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul", Psalm 19:1, 7.

#11. Our hope for answered prayers resides in the non-linear power of the Almighty, James 1:1-7.

#12. Let us remember. *Redemption is never inherent in our situations, circumstances, events or states of being.* But that does not matter. Because redemption is itself non-linear! Blessings upon you all.

From Psalm 19; Romans 1. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 6: THE ORIGIN OF COLLAPSE, Romans 1:1-32.

#1. The "ordinance of God" is perfectly non-linear, v.32. Such representations cannot be produced by human reasoning alone and enmeshed in personal experience. These conceptions are forced upon human existence and behavior from outside the system.

#2. "Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them", v.19.

#3. The apostle does not refer to the written Word of God, but to the conscience.

#4. Conscience, everyone's conscience, is a form of revelation. Non-linear as it is, it can be overruled. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse", v.20.

#5. Non-linear truth, stored in the conscience, precedes our experience of time, life, history. And it gives revealed eternal meaning to them.

#6. Those are David's ideas of Psalm 19:1-6.

7. But many, perhaps, reject the non-linear because it stands in opposition to the much-preferred linear.

#8. "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened", v.21.

#9. So, the *collapse* took shape. Linear appetites were enshrined. Many sins are collated in this text; not one of them is trivial. Conscience is not complete revelation, but it is enough to hold men accountable.

#10. They were self-deceived. "Professing to be wise, they became fools", v.22. The collapse of mind is as non-linear as is the Word of God. "Therefore God gave them over..." v.24-28.

From Psalm 19; 1 Samuel 13, 14. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 7: NON-LINEAR LEADERSHIP.

#1. King Saul had "acted foolishly", 1 Samuel 13:13. Out of his linear reasoning, Saul looked at the historical conditions unfolding around him and he acted on that basis. The prophet called such behavior foolish, 1 Samuel 13:8-14. Others would have thought it prudent.

#2. The king's son, Jonathan, perceived the situation in non-linear terms. His leadership in that particular circumstance was the expression of biblical truth.

#3. Jonathan and his armor bearer were courageous, bold and intense; but that was not enough. The difference was that they were both non-linear thinkers. Both men believed that "...the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few", 1 Samuel 14:6. That idea is uniquely non-linear. It is from above and not of this earth. And men of faith must test it.

#4. The "few" was just two! These two were united by unquestioned trust in the Almighty. "His armor bearer said to him, 'Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire'", 1 Samuel 14:7.

#5. From all appearances, their necks were on the block. Non-linear leadership usually puts one in untenable circumstances, where personal recourse is useless.

#6. Jonathan and servant presented themselves for battle "to the garrison of the Philistines", 1 Samuel 14:11.

#7. These great men of iron were not seeking victory; they were seeking God. "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the Lord will work for us", 1 Samuel 14:6.

#8. Non-linear belief takes us to the "absurd", in the view of those conformed to the linear. The Almighty likes the "absurd". To believe in the God of the Bible is to enter the most distressing of historical conditions, wherein the only avenue of redemption is the power of God to save. In response to non-linear faith, the Lord unleashed a cascade of irresistible force, 1 Samuel 14:11-23.

From Psalm 19; James 1:1-8. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 8: THE NON-LINEAR MIND.

#1. James presents to the believer the necessary factor of *the non-linear alteration of the mind*.

#2. "James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" v.1. This statement is perfectly non-linear.

#3. To take the self and personal aggrandizement out of the center of personal experience is manifest of a complete alteration of mind. The "bond-servant of God" has no other prerogative.

#4. With this change, the point of personal experience can no longer be derived from linear forms of reasoning. The point of the believer's life is not temporal "success" nor even survival; it is to pursue the will of God.

#5. To do this, *a non-linear revealed frame of reference* must serve as the ever-vigilant sentinel over one's thinking.

#6. Our lives are always confronting world magnitudes. Linear representations will intrude. At that point we plug in the non-linear alteration.

#7. "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials" v.2. The "joy" is not in the trial, but in the outcome. And the outcome is an abiding alteration of one's reasoning; it becomes non-linear.

#8. "Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance", v.3. The "knowing" is constituted of revealed truth about human experience. Reasoning upon it constitutes the alteration.

#9. The "testing of your faith" is necessary prelude to the non-linear alteration of our thinking. "And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing", v.4.

#10. The Almighty sets the expectation. The revelation is provided to realize the non-linear alteration of just how we perceive temporal reality. And it fits within a non-linear box.

From Psalm 19; James 1:1-8. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.

PART 9: THE NON-LINEAR MIND.

#1. The non-linear mind is possible on earth because of the reality of a living non-linear relation that runs from Heaven to earth.

#2. "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him", v.5.

#3. That non-linear relation is the source of the "wisdom" not of this world; not derived from human experience.

#4. This specific relation serves as a conveyance of eternal truth between the two dimensions of eternity and time. Or between the mind of God and the mind of a man. A permanent link, available, not subject to time.

#5. Everything depends upon this non-linear relation. One can pray for that special specie of wisdom and "it will be given to him". Question: Why would one not rigorously treasure the receipt of just such non-linear knowledge?

#6. This relation is the active ingredient in the alteration of the mind. The alteration is a gift.

#7. However, it comes with a non-linear proviso. "But he must ask in faith without any doubting..." v.6.

#8. Here is the problem: the one who doubts holds deep and perhaps severe reservations against the biblical alteration of reasoning.

#9. Such an alteration of mind, immediately, puts one in a contrary relation to human experience, to the world and to the virtues of common sense.

#10. Doubt is not passive! It threatens and alters one's relation to God. Doubt modifies faith.

From Psalm 19; James 1:1-8. LINEAR and NON-LINEAR REPRESENTATIONS.
PART 10: THE NON-LINEAR MIND.

#1. A faith modified by doubt is a faith bearing no legitimate relation to the mind of God. This is not just a limitation on faith but a modification of it.

#2. There is a consequence, "...for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind", James 1:6. Instability is its prevailing aspect. There is no firmness, no decisive spiritual strength. The one who doubts is still open to the world. In the daily and moment by moment temptations and trials, there is no resolute mind.

#3. "For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord..." James 1:7.

#4. Under such personal and linear concerns this man has *no reason to expect the Lord to answer his prayers*.

#5. Such a believer is "Socratic" in the sense that he believes that the answers to the questions, that he thinks are important, are already inside him. He has no need of a greater knowledge of the revealed non-linear truth. "being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways", James 1:8.

#6. This is a portraiture of the contemporary church. One cannot avoid the awareness that the Bible is of little interest, generally, to many in the churches. "Doubts" abound regarding its legitimacy, reliability and its determinant purpose in the world. There are many leaders who have concluded that Scripture is obsolete and even superfluous, perhaps dangerous, in the present historical conditions.

#7. The linear mind has no use for the non-linear truth made known to us. The Bible is under-utilized, discredited, except as a religious artifact.

#8. We must stand up to and stand against this! Children, marriage, family, the redemptive value of the church are in immediate jeopardy.