

# **The Noble Vocation of the Missions Historian:** An Appeal to Young Seminarians and Future Scholars

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Witnessing the countless stars in the night sky, the Psalmist wrote:

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
The skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
Night after night they display knowledge. (Ps 19:1–2)

The Psalmist uses all the literary tools available to express the superlative glory of God revealed in the heavens. But, with just the naked eye, could the Psalmist possibly have fully grasped the depth and breadth of the glory of God that was only revealed centuries later with the use of a telescope? And Galileo himself could not have imagined the discoveries of the twenty-first century through the use of the Hubble Space Telescope, infra-red telescopes, and gamma-ray telescopes. How might the praise of the Psalmist been enhanced by the knowledge scientists possess today of the mysteries of the heavens?

Could a Western missionary in 1900, serving for instance in China or the Congo Free State, have imagined the glory of God yet to be revealed in the twentieth century?