

**SBC – May 19, 2024**

**Psalm 29 (NKJV)**

**“The Storm Psalm”**

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**A Psalm of David.**

Psalm 29 is simply titled, “A Psalm of David”. With poetic beauty David uses the storm imagery to depict awesome power of God. This Psalm has been called “A Psalm of Pure Praise” and it calls on all to give God the worship due Him.

**Slide # 1**

***Psalm 29***

**Theme: “The Storm Psalm”**

***OUTLINE:***

- vv. 1-2 – A Call to Worship
- vv. 3-9 – The Voice of the LORD
- v. 10 – The Enthroned LORD
- v. 11 – The Benediction

**1 Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.**

The mighty ones here are either powerful leaders on earth or God’s mighty angels. They are called on to give (ascribe to) the LORD glory and strength. This means they are called on to recognize God’s awesomeness and His mighty power. They are mighty in a certain realm, but God is Almighty and they are called on to recognize the LORD for Who He is.

The Hebrew word for glory is often associated with brightness, visible displays of brilliant light, fire, or thunderbolts (cf. Ex. 24:16, 33:17-23, Ezek. 1:27-28, etc.). It speaks of a brilliant awesomeness that characterizes God. To ascribe “glory” to God is to marvel and worship God for His awesomeness!

Strength is power. God is to be recognized for being the Almighty God that He is.

**2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

The name Lord (YHWH) is found 18 times in this Psalm which is very significant – 18 times in 11 verses. The god of Canaanites was Baal. He was considered the “storm god”. They called him the “storm rider”. But here David emphasizes that the true God of the storm is the God of Israel – YHWH.

The Jews considered this the most sacred name for God in the O.T. It first appears in Genesis with the basic idea of God being the self-existent eternal God. However, in the progressive revelation of God as seen in Ex. 3 and Ex. 6 God builds on this reality. God uses this Name (YHWH) to emphasize His covenant relationship with Israel.

Therefore, this is frequently called His covenant Name. The basic idea of YHWH is that He is the eternal God in an everlasting covenant relationship with Israel. God has forever identified Himself with Israel as seen in this sacred covenant Name.

YHWH is the idea of God being eternal and unchanging in His nature and character and what that means is FAITHFULNESS in His covenant relationship with Israel.

God’s Name is His Person – Who He is. The glory due His name is that which is to be attributed to Him simply on the basis of Who He is as the God of Israel. Worship is not a trivial thing. He is such a great God He is to be addressed “in the beauty of holiness.” The idea is that God is to be worshipped for Who He is in keeping with the spirit of Israel’s solemn worship assemblies. God must be worshipped “in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24).

To worship means “to bow down before”. In worship we subordinate our wills and our minds to Him.

Three times the mighty ones are called upon to give God His due. He is worthy of our worship!

### **Slide # 2**

- v. 1 Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones...
- v. 1 Give unto the LORD glory and strength.
- v. 2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name...

And what inspired David to this all out call to worship was a STORM that he now goes on to describe. I love storms – as long as I am in a safe place. They are awesome because they are “acts of God”.

Did you ever stop and think about how much of our lives revolve around the weather? Weather affects you every single day of the year. Several times a day, there are special segments on the news in which we listen to the weather forecast. The weather influences our choice of clothing for the day, our travel plans, and even our attitudes. Complaining about the weather is a constant.

Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation. -[Kin Hubbard](#) (1868 - 1930)

How often do we greet someone with a quip about the weather? Weather often impacts the lives of people in a great way. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, hail, snow, and on and on.

The world is very worried about the weather and what they call “climate change” not seeming to realize that the climate has always been changing down through history and now somehow we are going to stop it? And yet God has promised that as long as the earth remains there will always be the change in seasons (Gen. 8:22).

People are pretty foolish when they take on God-sized issues. Certainly, we should be good stewards when it comes to pollution and so forth, but God is in charge of the weather as the Bible shows over and over. And Psalm 29 certainly reinforces this reality.

The occasion for this Psalm is a strong thunderstorm that had passed through the land. We are not told where David was positioned during the storm, but an elevated location in the Jerusalem capital would be a good guess.

From there, or wherever it was, David was able to see the path of the storm from way up north to way down south. In the storm David gets a little glimpse of God's glory and power which stirs him to this summons to worship.

In verses 3-9 we have the account of the storm which speaks of God's glory and power which prompted this call to worship.

**3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.**

The voice of the LORD as speaking through nature is shown here to be THUNDER (cf. Ex. 9:23, Job. 28:26, 37:4, 38:25, Ps. 18:13). The God of glory thunders. Don't you just love to listen to the thunder? It is awesome. Rolling thunder, the loud crack of thunder. It's awesome.

The “voice of the LORD” is mentioned 7 times in this short little Psalm.

When we speak of the revelation of God we speak in terms of two categories. We talk about special revelation as found in the Bible. This revelation is complete. The canon of Scripture is complete.

However, the other category of revelation is what we call GENERAL revelation or NATURAL revelation whereby God reveals truth about Himself in the realm of nature. That is what we have here in Ps. 29. That is what we have in the storm. In the storm we have a revelation through nature about the awesome greatness of God’s power and glory. This form of revelation is on-going as God is constantly through the forces of nature bearing witness to Himself (cf. Ps. 19:1-6).

Evidently what David refers to in verse 3 is the storm forming over the waters of the Mediterranean Sea up to the N.W. of where he was located. Way in the distance David could see a lightning storm brewing out in the Mediterranean.

#### **4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

In verse 3 the God of glory thunders. In verse 4 the voice of the Lord is powerful and majestic. All of this ties in thought to the glory and strength of the LORD in verse 1 for which He is to be praised!

*Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. -[Mark Twain](#) (1835-1910)*

Indeed, the voice of the Lord in the storm is powerful and majestic and no one can do anything about it. Don’t you just love God. When He moves no one can stop Him. His power is untamable! He is awesome! God alone is sovereign over the affairs of this world as seen in the weather. It is arrogance beyond measure to think man can control the weather. We are only spectators in this realm. We can’t predict the weather with absolute precision let alone control it. This is God’s business. He is the LORD of the storm and we bow before Him.

#### **Slide # 3**



**Arno Froese** relays the following story: When my mother-in-law was alive she frequently traveled behind the Iron Curtain to visit her relatives in communist East Germany. She always brought [Christian literature] with her in spite of the fact that it was forbidden. She was caught with the literature several times, but the authorities did not arrest her because of her age. When in East Germany, Mom always took long walks in the fields of the countryside. On one occasion she saw a large sign in a wheat field that the communists had put up that said, “Without god and sunshine we will still bring the harvest in.” The communists challenged God. Their confidence was strengthened because they had just imported brand new grain harvesters from Russia, which were supposedly capable of harvesting wheat during wet seasons.

Then one day it started to rain. This, of course was not unusual but the rain continued for seven days. The result was predictable. The crop was flattened. They were unable to harvest the grain even with the most sophisticated Russian machinery. The billboards disappeared overnight. The communists had taken them down because they were embarrassed by their arrogance. (Midnight Call-April 2008, p. 10)

**Scientists** calculate that a typical thunderstorm releases around 10,000,000 kilowatt-hours of energy – the equivalent of a 20-kiloton nuclear warhead. Storms are examples of the massive power of God. Want to hear from God – listen to His voice in the storm – it tells you something about His awesome glory and power!

Weather is a reminder that God is sovereign. He is large and in charge and we can't do a thing about it. People might curse God as they will do when the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment is poured out in Revelation 16 resulting in 75-pound hailstones falling on them. But what can they do about it? Any fool can curse but that doesn't change the situation one iota – other than perhaps resulting in more and larger hail stones (cf. Rev. 16:21).

As God's people we are to have a different response to "acts of God". We pray. We fear/reverence God. We worship this awesome untamable God. We say, "The voice of the Lord is powerful, The voice of the Lord is majestic" and we worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

### **5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.**

Although the cedars of Lebanon are now rare having been cut down through the years – the cedar trees were the "glory of Lebanon" in the OT (cf. Isa. 35:2, 60;13). However, the Lebanon Cedar is still the national emblem of Lebanon. Cedar trees grow to be very large trees. They could grow to be 120 feet high with a girth of 40 feet and could have a lifespan of 2000 years. They were the greatest of all trees. David prepared cedar trees without number to be used in the building of the temple (cf. 1 Chron. 22:4).

#### **Slide # 4**

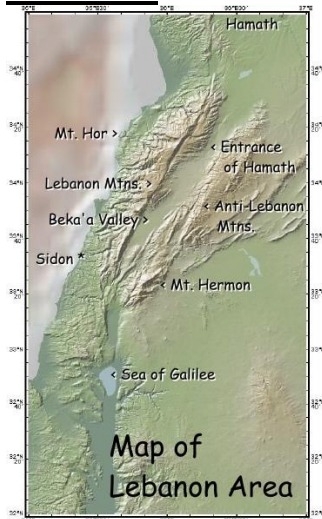


As David saw this ferocious storm up north he notes that the voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; and in fact splinters them to pieces. This is a very destructive storm. These great and powerful trees were no match for the voice of the LORD. As YHWH roars these trees come crashing down.

**6 He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

In view here were the two principal mountain ranges up north that are side by side; namely Mount Lebanon and Sirion which is also known as Mount Hermon (cf. Deut. 3:9).

**Slide # 5**



The wind blowing powerfully through the forests in these mountain ranges to David made them look in the distance like a skipping calf and a wild ox. They are portrayed as animals skipping in wild exuberance. It's like Mount Lebanon and Mount Hermon appear to merge in a frenzied dance as the storm swirls about it.

**7 The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.**

The thundering voice of the LORD came with brilliant flashes of lightning.

**8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness. There is a whole lot of shaking going on here. The entire path of the storm is shaking every thing in its path from way up north by Lebanon and Mount Hermon to clear down south of the Dead Sea in the wilderness of Kadesh. This was a large storm that covered the entire scope of the promised land from one end to the other.

**Slide # 6**





The voice of the Lord comes with flashing fire – GLORY! The voice of the LORD shakes everything in its path – GLORY! This display of God’s power in the realm of nature is His GLORY on display!

There is discussion about what “*His temple*” here is referencing. Remember that during the time of David the Temple was not yet built – so I take it that this harks back to the angelic hosts referenced in verse 1. As all of heaven watches from the “heavenly sanctuary” they are impressed and in worship to God they say “GLORY!” (cf. Eph. 3:10, 1 Pet. 1:12).

Verses 10-11 provide a fitting epilogue to the Psalm.

### **10 The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever.**

The word used here for flood [mabbul] is used elsewhere in the OT only to refer to the universal flood in Noah’s day (cf. Gen. 6-9). In summarizing the greatness of YHWH – the God of Israel David presents the greatest of all storms in the history of the world.

In the days of Noah the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened and it rained non-stop for 40 days and 40 nights resulting in the entire world being covered by water (cf. Gen. 7:11-12). This was an unparalleled catastrophe in the realm of nature in which every air breathing creature on land outside of the ark died.

It was YHWH who presided over that ultimate “storm” and it is He who presides over all lesser storms since then. God is so great that He didn’t even have to get up to bring it to pass. He merely sat as King at the flood. Yes, the LORD sits as King forever on the throne of the universe!

The Flood was a radical expression of God’s authority; yet His authority did not end those many generations ago. The LORD God continues to sit **as King forever**. – **David Guzik**

#### **Slide # 7**

“As God showed himself to be the King and the Judge of the world at that time, so he doth still *sit*, and will sit, as *King forever*, sending such tempests when it pleases him.” – **Matthew Poole**

God is still on His throne as King and He will be forever. The weather is on going proof of that reality. Only God can control the weather. And it is ongoing evidence of His Kingship over this fallen world.

**11 The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.**

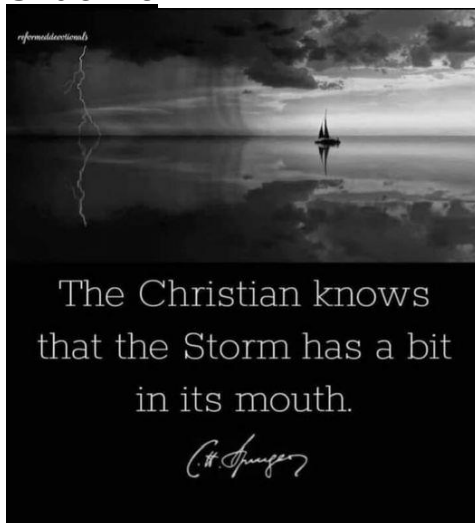
Here is the benediction.

With the awesome power of God as seen in the storm we might think we should all run and hide. But David says no! Rather this display of power is there to encourage us because it is out of this great power that God strengthens His own. And the strength that comes from God is closely connected to the peace that comes from God.

“The commentators tell us that in the early church this psalm was often read to children or to an entire congregation during storms.”

– **James Montgomery Boice**

**Slide # 8**



The saints know this well. There is a supernatural power and peace that God bestows on His own and often it is put on display in the context of a great storm. God’s power prompts worship and provides peace.

**Slide # 9**

**Nahum 1:3 (NKJV)**

**3** The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. **The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm,** And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

**Nahum 1:7 (NKJV)**

**7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.**

“During the storm He will give strength to His people. Following it He will give them peace.” – **G. Campbell Morgan**

He's the great great God of the Bible.  
He's the great great God of all power.  
He's the great God who can shake the world.  
He's the great God of the hour!

And everyone in His temple says, “GLORY!”