

## Worship in the Midst of Storm

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AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

### Text:

Psalm 29:1 Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. 2: Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 3: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. 4: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. 5: The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. 6: He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. 7: The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. 8: The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. 9: The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. 10: The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. 11: The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

### Introduction

David begins [Psalm 29](#) with a call to worship. A call to ascribe glory and strength due unto the name of the LORD. Then immediately he follows that call to worship with the description of the **thunderstorm** that is **building up** and **approaching** his way.

Modern men like to explain everything in terms of science. We like to think that **we know** what **thunderstorm** is and **how it is formed**. We explain that thunderstorm is formed when on hot summer day **the Sun heats up the air** just above the surface of the Earth. If **the warm surface air is forced to rise**, it will continue to rise, and this process will transfer heat from the land surface to upper levels of the atmosphere which **forms clouds and rain**. We can explain it all to the degree the we can almost **predict its direction and its strength**.

But as David watches the storm coming, he saw it in a different perspective. As this storm is passing through, David saw it not just a natural phenomenon but a **manifestation of God's power and glory**. You will see in this Psalm that David's thoughts did not turn to fear but to faith. **He looked beyond the thunderstorm** and saw it as an illustration of God's power and strength.

Last Sunday, we looked at the subject of "**Worship in the Beauty of Holiness**", this morning, consider with me the subject of "**Worship in the Midst of the Storm**". I want to highlight three words, namely, **voice**, **power** and **glory**. Consider with me the **Voice of God** in the Storm, the **Power of God** Over the Storm and the **Glory of God** Through the Storm.

## I - The Voice of God in the Storm

As David sees the approaching storm and as he listens to the loud and booming thunder, he heard more than the natural noise, what he heard was the “**voice of the LORD.**” He refers to the thunder as the “voice of the LORD.” “The voice of the LORD” occurs **seven times** in this Psalm. Psalm 29:3 The **voice of the LORD** is upon the waters ...

Psalm 29:4 The **voice of the LORD** is powerful; the **voice of the LORD** is full of majesty.

Psalm 29:5 The **voice of the LORD** breaketh the cedars ...

Psalm 29:7 The **voice of the LORD** divideth the flames of fire.

Psalm 29:8 The **voice of the LORD** shaketh the wilderness ...

Psalm 29:9 The **voice of the LORD** maketh the hinds to calve ...

As David is witnessing a great storm and hearing the power of thunder, **he associates the thunder with the voice of the LORD.** And this connection is seen in many places in the Bible. One good example is found in the book of Job.

Job 37:2 Hear attentively the noise of **his voice**, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth. 3: He directeth it under the whole heaven, and his lightning unto the ends of the earth. 4: After it a **voice** roareth: he thundereth with **the voice of his excellency**; and he will not stay them when **his voice is heard**. 5: God thundereth marvellously with **his voice**; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

This does not mean David literally believe that the thunder and lightning were speaking. Understand that this psalm is a poetical literature. He simply saw the storm as a picture showing us the power of God's voice. I said many times before and I will say it again, God speaks! God communicates!

A. W. Tozer spoke about this in his book ‘**The Pursuit of God**’, “*An intelligent plain man, untaught in the truths of Christianity, coming upon this text [John 1:1], would likely conclude that John meant to teach that it is the nature of God to speak, to communicate His thoughts to others. And he would be right. A word is a medium by which thoughts are expressed, and the application of term to the Eternal Son leads us to believe that self-expression is inherent in the Godhead, that God is forever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation. The whole Bible supports the idea. God is speaking. Not God spoke, but God is speaking. He is by His nature continuously articulate. He fills the world with His speaking Voice.*

*One of the great realities with which we have to deal is the Voice of God in His world. The briefest and only satisfying cosmogony is this: "He spake and it was done." The why of natural law is the living Voice of God immanent in His creation. And this word of God which brought all worlds into being cannot be understood to mean the Bible, for it is not a written or printed word*

*at all, but the expression of the will of God spoken into the structure of all things. This word of God is the breath of God filling the world with living potentiality. The Voice of God is the most powerful force in nature, indeed the only force in nature, for all energy is here only because the power-filled Word is being spoken.”*

**David looked beyond the thunderstorm** and he heard the voice of God through the lightning and thunder. One of the most important things you and I must do while in a storm is listen to the voice of the LORD. God is speaking. **His words will both give comfort and give direction** as we shall see David closes this Psalm.

## **II - The Power of God Over the Storm**

Not only did David hear the voice of God in the storm, he also saw the power of God in the storm. In the next seven verses, David describes the storm as it moves from the Mediterranean Sea through Lebanon and then over Israel.

[Psalm 29:3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.](#)

David is describing a storm that is gathering strength over the waters and as this storm gathers strength it thunders. Many people suffer from ‘**Astraphobia**’ which is the **fear of thunder and lightning**. How many of us have witnessed the flashing lightning and the loud thunder and then started running as fast as we could to hide and find shelter? When it thunders, **we are reminded** of our own **weakness, feebleness, and dependence**.

[Psalm 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.](#)

The **voice of the Lord is powerful**, but His voice is not a mere display of power and strength. The voice of the Lord is majestic. The Hebrew is “**in majesty**.” that is, it is **grand, awe-inspiring, and overpowering**. When it thunders, not only are we reminded of our own weakness, feebleness, and dependence but **we are also reminded of God’s power, majesty, and greatness**.

[Psalm 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. 6: He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. 7: The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.](#)

The storm moves over the forest-covered mountains of Lebanon. Lebanon was well-known for its **large cedar trees**, which were a **symbol of great might** in the ancient world. But these strong and mighty trees are **nothing compared to the power of the voice of God**. That power is so great that when it strikes, huge and strong trees break and split and twist.

The rolling thunder not only shakes and breaks the cedar trees and they skip like a calf or a young unicorn, they are **uprooted and displaced** from its location.

[Psalm 29:7 The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.](#)

David continues to declare the power of the voice of God. The voice of the LORD strikes with bolts of lightning. Scientists say, that nearly **1,800 thunderstorms** are happening at any moment around the world. That's 16 million a year! Scientific studies suggest that the chances of an individual getting struck by lightning is 1 in 600,000. 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 demonstration of the great power of God.

Psalm 29:8 The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

As the storm moves on into the wilderness area, not only does it break trees, it **shakes** and **moves** desert and **wilderness**. The voice of the LORD is so powerful that it **shakes the earth**.

Psalm 29:9 **The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve**, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

How powerful is this voice? It is so powerful that it **makes the deer to give birth early**. It causes them to give birth prematurely.

Psalm 29:9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and **discovereth the forests**: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

The word “**discovereth**” means **exposes**. The wind and lightning strip the forests bare. The mighty forests are no match to the power of the voice of the LORD.

### III – The Glory of God through the Storm

The **theme of this Psalm is the glory of God and the God of glory**. This Psalm begins with great emphasis on the glory of God. The word “glory” appears **3 times in the first three verses**.

Psalm 29:1 Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD **glory** and strength. 2: Give unto the LORD the **glory** due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. 3: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of **glory** thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

The note that David **opens** this Psalm is the same note that he **closes** this Psalm, namely, **the glory of God!**

Psalm 29:9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and **in his temple doth every one speak of his glory**.

Having experienced this powerful storm which manifests the power and majesty of God, **David responded with a yearning to give God the glory He deserves**. As David sees the glory of God in the storm, he feels the need to ascribe to God the glory due His name.

As we have seen last Sunday, **a true worshiper is not content that he worships alone**. A true worshiper wants to see others join in that worship. You see that here at the end of verse 9....

Psalm 29:9 ... and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

**David celebrates and rejoices to see** those who were worshiping in the temple, speak of God's glory. As they hear the booming thunder and see the flashing lightning, **everyone worshiping** in the temple **was moved to speak of the greatness of Jehovah**. Everyone was moved by a sense of God's majesty to shout in ecstasy, "**Glory, glory**." Anyone who has seen and heard the glory of God **cannot be silent**.

### Closing Thoughts

Thunderstorms can be terrifying. Some might even think the storm is out of control, but David doesn't think so. Listen to what he says in the last verse 10 ...

[Psalm 29:10](#) The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.

David continues by telling us that **the LORD Jehovah sits as King over the flood and He is King always and forever**. The LORD sits as King forever. That is a **very comforting thought**. There is **nothing** that has happened or ever will ever happen that is **beyond God's kingship and control**. He is in, through, above, and beyond every storm, whether it is **physical** or **emotional** or **spiritual**. There is no **financial** storm – no **personal** storm – no **national** storm over which He is not Lord. Therefore, there is **nothing** or **no one I should fear or honor more than Him**.

You may not be facing storm today, but you and I have, and will, face our share of storms in our lives. The Bible tells us that the Father "[sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust](#)". ([Matthew 5:45](#)) Thunderstorms **make us feel small and helpless** and so does the storms of life. So, what do we do when storm of life comes? **Where do we turn when things are unstable?**

Notice that last verse.

[Psalm 29:11](#) **The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace**.

It says God will give strength and peace to His people. The God who has the power over the physical storms and storms of life gives strength and peace. But **real peace comes** when we **know the holiness and power and glory** of God. Real peace comes when we **learn to worship God in midst of storm of life**. Real peace comes when we **learn to hear the voice of God in the midst of storm**. God gives strength through His written Word. When we hear the voice of the LORD, **the reality of the presence of the storm may not change, but it changes us inside**. It dispels our fears and causes faith to arise in our hearts ([Romans 10:17](#)).

*All who sail the sea of faith  
Find out before too long  
How quickly blue skies can grow dark  
And gentle winds grow strong*

*Suddenly fear is like white water  
Pounding on the soul  
Still we sail on knowing  
That our Lord is in control*

*Sometimes He calms the storm  
With a whispered peace be still  
He can settle any sea  
But it doesn't mean He will*

*Sometimes He holds us close  
And lets the wind and waves go wild  
Sometimes He calms the storm  
And other times He calms His child.*

**AMEN!**