

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 6.16.2024

## PSALM 29 - KING OVER THE STORMS

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### **Psalm 29:1-11**

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over 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 breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth  
and strips the forests bare,  
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- 10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

11 May the Lord give strength to his people!

May the Lord bless his people with peace!

## II. ASCRIBE TO THE LORD GLORY

- Psalm 29 is a hymn psalm written by David, Israel's king.
- As you read through the psalms, you will note that many of them have an intensely personal flavor.
- It's one of the reasons the psalms are so beloved, they speak honestly about the whole range of human experience and emotion.
- But we also need to remember in reading the psalms, especially those written by David, that they were written by a king for a nation.
- And this psalm is meant to encourage God's people with a reminder of God's sovereign power and judgment, and to call them to worship Yahweh, the only one deserving of all worship.
- In worshiping Yahweh they will find what they lack in the turmoil around them, strength and peace.

- How do we know that's what they needed?
- Look at v11, David offers a benediction, a prayer-wish, for God's people to receive strength from the Lord and for the Lord to bless his people with peace (shalom!)
- Whatever the nation was facing, whatever challenges God's people were being confronted with, David wanted to move them from a place of weakness, worry, fear, and inner unrest to a position of strength, peace, and rest.
- How many of you need strength and rest?
- I want you to receive the encouragement found in this psalm for God's people and I want you to take note of what is the solution for our fearful hearts.

- Not surprisingly, the call to worship the Lord in the opening verses gives us the 'how to' that produces the result of the Lord's giving of strength and blessing his people with peace.
- The Lord takes center stage throughout the entirety of this psalm.
- Every verse with the exception of one contains the covenant and personal name of God—Yahweh.
- His name is mentioned eighteen times in eleven verses.
- "Ascribe to the Lord..."
- 'Ascribe' means to give to the Lord the glory due his name and worship him.
- It means to attribute to Yahweh glory and strength for he alone possesses those in perfection.
- It is a command. It is what everyone must do.
- And if you want strength and peace—worship God!
- "O heavenly beings..." the literal translation is "mighty ones" or "sons of God."
- This might be a reference to the heavenly beings and that would be appropriate.
- But it is more likely David is referring to the people of God or the people of the earth.
- Psalm 96:7-9 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!
- Why does that matter? Why the command to worship the Lord alone?

- Because we are always worshipping, we were created as worshipping creatures, the problem is our propensity to worship the wrong thing, to worship false gods and idols.
  - You want to know what brings unrest, lack of peace, inner turmoil, feelings of powerlessness and hopelessness?
  - When we look to the wrong things, when we look to anything other than the Lord for salvation, safety, comfort, and peace.
  - When we direct our worship to anything or anyone other than God—that’s idolatry.
  - This was the problem with God’s people the whole time—idolatry.
  - They looked at the nations that seemed powerful and successful and they turned to worship their gods thinking that would bring them what they were looking for.
  - **Isaiah 31:1** Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord!
  - Idols are the things we run to when life is difficult because they give us temporary relief, a feeling of comfort and peace.
  - The problem with idols is—they’re not God!
  - True lasting strength, joy, comfort, and peace is only found in worshipping the true and living God.
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- The call to worship each Sunday that we gather is a reorientation of our priorities, it’s the reason we gather, it’s the summons to worship the only one worthy of all our worship.
  - When we give God worship, we are being changed, we are reorienting our priority of worship around the only One who is worthy to receive our worship.
  - We are seeing God in all of his breathtaking beauty, splendor, power, and majesty.
  - We are placing our trust and hope in the only one who can deliver and save us and bring us lasting peace and rest.

### III. THE LORD'S POWERFUL VOICE

- Vv3-9, David poetically gives an example of this sovereign and all-powerful God who can bring his people strength and peace.
  - Seven times David speaks about the voice of the Lord and how powerful His voice is.
  - The references give a call back to not only God’s voice in the act of Creation but also of his judgment in the Flood.
  - The language demonstrates the reality that nothing in all of God’s creation can rival the sound of the Creator’s voice—all the earth quakes and trembles, and must bow at His voice.
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- Ancient Canaanite poetry hailed the power of Baal over the storms and forces of nature.
  - David proclaims, “The voice of the Lord is over the waters...”
  - It is a proclamation of Yahweh’s superiority over Baal.
  - Yahweh alone rules sovereignly over the mighty waters and the storms.
  - His voice is like thunder, over the chaotic waters of the sea, his voice rolls in like a powerful storm bearing down on the land, like a hurricane, moving from Lebanon and Sirion (Hermon) in the far north, down to Kadesh in the remote south.
  - His voice is so powerful that the tall mountains of Lebanon and Sirion quake and tremble, skipping like an animal.
  - His voice breaks apart the giant cedars of Lebanon.

- His voice strips the bark off of trees, splintering them, and leaving the forests bare,
- His voice is like lightning and flames of fire consuming everything.
- How powerful is God's voice? It's like that of a hurricane or a nuclear blast.
- At his voice the creation is rearranged. At his voice, the flood consumes everything, the earth quakes and trembles.
- He alone has absolute power and authority.
- And the only appropriate response is for everyone to cry, "Glory!"
- His voice is powerful and is to be obeyed over all other voices.
- He is King over the flood (10), he is king over the waters of judgment.
- He is King forever!
- The absolute power of his word demonstrates the might of the One who will never be dethroned.

## IV. LASTING STRENGTH AND PEACE

- David ends this psalm with his benediction, a ringing note of confidence that God will use his powerful voice to strengthen his people and bless his people with shalom, true and lasting peace.
- If you find yourself here today, tired and exhausted, fearful about a situation in life, stressed out, burned out, anxious and worried, I implore you to listen to what David says.
- Abandon your idols and worship the true and living God.
- There are many rival voices out there that when you pay more attention to them than the voice of the Lord, you will become fearful, you will be consumed with worry and unrest.
- We need to remember what David is encouraging God's people with.
- Yahweh is in control of the storms, he rules over the storms and the floods, the voice of the Lord is more powerful than the seemingly unstoppable and powerful forces of nature.
- Jesus calms the storm (Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8)
- There is only One who can calm the storms—Who can still the raging seas—Yahweh! The Almighty!
- And God's voice has a name—JESUS!
- The one who spoke and by command of his voice, the cosmos came into being, the one who commanded the fountains of the deep to open and caused rain to fall, covering the earth in watery judgment, is the one whose voice is most clearly heard and made known through Jesus.
- And here is the comforting news for those seeking strength and peace, Jesus is the only Sovereign, whose voice is so powerful, He can calm the storms in your life and still your anxious soul.
- Jesus is King Forever!
- The even more astounding truth is that Jesus, the incarnate voice of God, came into the world, to rescue idol worshiping, rebel sinners, who chased after false gods.
- His voice can bring the dead to life.
- His voice says, "Do not be afraid!"
- His voice says, "Peace, be still!"
- His voice says, "Come to me all you who are weary burdened and I will give you rest for your souls!"
- His voice says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you!"

- And the only appropriate response to his voice is, “Glory!”
- He alone is worthy of our worship. And if we place our trust in Christ alone, we will find everything our weary, fearful, fretful, anxious hearts long for—strength and peace.
- Church—Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name!
- May the Lord give strength to his people, may the Lord bless his people with peace!

## **APPLICATION AND REFLECTION**

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?