

God Rides upon the Storm

Psalm 29: 1-11

Our text today comes from a very interesting Psalm of David. It is widely accepted that David was motivated to pen this psalm after encountering an intense thunder storm. As he surveyed the ferocity of the storm, he was reminded of the majesty and power of the Lord.

While it appears a storm was the motivation for the psalm, there is also a prophetic voice revealed as well. Clearly David is referring to a moment, yet future, when the Lord Himself will come again to rule and reign in great power and majesty. Regardless of the approach, the mighty attributes of our Lord remain the same. He was sovereign in David's day; He remains sovereign in our day, and He will return to earth as the sovereign King.

As I read these verses I was reminded of the old hymn by William Cowper: *God moves in a Mysterious Way*. The first stanza reads like this:

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

As we look at the [assertions](#) of David within the psalm, I want to consider the thought: [God Rides upon the Storm](#).

I. A Call to Worship (1-2) – As David was moved by his encounter with the Lord, he challenged others to offer worship unto the Lord as well. Notice:

A. The Expectation – Three times in these two verses we are challenged to “give unto the LORD.” Once David directly urges our worship of the LORD. Clearly he was moved to offer worship by his experience and he challenged the reader to do the same. While we are separated in time from David, God is still worthy of our worship, and as His children, we are expected to offer our worship. We should engage in worship each day, actually throughout each day.

B. The Expression – While David challenged men to give unto the LORD, I am sure he was aware that God has need of nothing. He doesn't need the contributions of men to aid His existence, but He does desire our praise. David offers precise instruction on how we are to worship. We are to [give unto the LORD glory...strength...the glory due unto his name](#). Although we are unable to actually

give the Lord any additional glory or strength, we can offer our praise and honor Him with our entire being.

- We are exhorted to [worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness](#). This is actually two-fold: we must come before the Lord clothed in His righteousness as we honor Him in complete awareness of His holiness. We need to see Him as Isaiah did, high and lifted up! [Heb.13:15 – By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.](#)

II. A Call to Wonder (3-9) – Here David reveals the awe he experienced as he contemplated the majesty and power of the LORD. He stood amazed at:

A. His Presence (3) – [The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters](#). As David listened to the thunder within the storm, that seemed to resound throughout creation, he realized that the presence of God was everywhere. He had revealed Himself to men through His wondrous creation.

- We also can make application for the Word of God. Often the Word is likened to water in the Scriptures. God has given us His Word in order to reveal Himself to us and convince us of our need for Him. As the thunder resounds throughout, so does the Word of God, accomplishing His divine plan and purpose. [Isaiah 55:11 – So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.](#)

B. His Preeminence (4) – [The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty](#). The great thunder reminded David of the power and majestic voice of God. There are none who speaks as He speaks. When He offers His Word, none can rival its power or hinder its voice. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will endure for all eternity. It is living and powerful, full of majesty and grace. We don't hear God speak audibly to us, but we can hear from His abiding Word. I am thankful to serve the preeminent Lord who has given us a sure Word of truth. We are blessed to have the Word to guide, convict, and comfort our lives!

C. His Power (5, 6) – [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](#). Nothing compared to the awesome power of the true and living God. Even His voice possessed unimaginable power. The cedars of Lebanon were revered for their strength and endurance, and

yet they were no match for the power of the Almighty. I can imagine David abiding in a sheltered place, listening to the roaring thunder, and contemplating the awesome power of God.

- Many today are rebellious, rejecting the Word of God, and refusing to submit to its authority. One day the Lord will return in power and great glory, to defeat Satan and those who stand with Him. He won't use a sword or the weapons of modern warfare to defeat the enemy. The Lord will conquer and vanquish the enemy by the Word of His mouth. [2 Thes.2:8 – And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.](#) [Rev.19:15 – And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.](#)

D. His Parting (7) – [The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.](#) This appears to be David's description of the lightning appearing to be divided by the voice of thunder. As he watched the lightning dance across the sky, while hearing the thunder roar, David considered the power of God's Word to separate and divide.

- The Word stands to convict of sin and draw unto the Lord in salvation, but is also serves to condemn the wicked and rebellious. Nothing is hidden from the discerning eye of the Word of God. It has the ability to examine the heart and discern the thoughts of the mind. [Heb.4:12 – For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.](#) ^[13] [Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.](#)

E. His Persuasion (8-9a) – [The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.](#) ^[9a] [The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests.](#) As the mighty thunder roared, it literally shook the ground. The storm caused the deer to bring forth their young and it had the power to rend the trees within the forest. All who encountered the storm were convinced of its awesome power. David knew God possessed the same ability. He can show Himself is such power and might, that none would lack persuasion of His majesty.

- Many today deny His deity and choose to reject His grace in salvation, but eventually all will recognize Him as Lord. On that final day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!

F. His Purity (9b) – *and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory*. David was reminded of the tremendous impact the LORD had on those who followed Him. As they gathered in the temple for worship, they were compelled to speak of His glory. They entered His presence, offering worship in the beauty of holiness, and recognized the deity of their God.

- I have said many times that it would radically change our lives if we could honestly comprehend the holiness and glory of our God. I pray that we will commit to coming before Him, ever mindful of His glory and majesty!

III. A Call to Witness (10-11) – As David finished his thoughts, he was compelled to offer a witness of the goodness and grace of God. He testified of:

A. His Position (10) – *The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever*. This is in essence a summation of all that David had just said. He rejoiced in the sovereign position of the LORD. He was seated upon His throne and none could rival his sovereignty. He alone was God and that would never change. The eternal God reigned, and He would continue to do so throughout eternity!

- That ought to bring great comfort and a deep settled peace to the believer. Our Lord reigns! He rose triumphant over death and ascended back to the right hand of the Father. He is seated on His majestic throne and that will never change. There is no reason for fear or worry.

B. His Provision (11) – *The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace*. Many agree this is prophetic, speaking of the Millennial Reign of Christ, but surely David rejoiced in the present provision of the Lord for His people. He was the source of their strength and peace. The God who speaks like thunder, the one who possesses all power and might, was mindful of Israel. They were secure in Him.

- We are not Israel, but we too can rejoice in the provision of Christ. He paid a debt we owed, but could not pay. He purchased our redemption, atoning for our sin, and made the way of salvation and eternal life. He daily meets our needs and blesses us with provision untold. We are secure in Christ our Lord!

Conclusion: This has been a uniquely interesting psalm. Through it we have been reminded of the power, might, and provision of our Lord. I am thankful to know Him as my personal Savior and

Lord. He is more than able to provide for every situation in life. Do you know Him as your Savior? Are you in need of His grace and provision? If so, come to Him for the needs in your life!