

## Psalm 29 The Voice of the Lord

At some time in your life, you should have heard the voice of the Lord. Maybe it was in an hour of sorrow. Perhaps it was in a time of sickness. Or, it may have been in a season of joy and happiness. As a child of God, I know of nothing as special as hearing the voice of the Lord. The fact that the Bible is the recorded voice of God is one of the things that make the Bible the most special book of all time. The Bible is God speaking to man.

Beyond the speaking of the Lord by the Bible, God speaks to his children through the Holy Spirit. I do not hear the voice of God as I hear the audible voice of my wife speaking to me. However, the voice of God is as plain and clear as a person speaking to another person. Rather than sound waves coming into my ears, the voice of God is, as best as I can describe, an impression in the heart. God speaks through the heart, not the ear. We go to bed confused and disturbed and wake up comforted and knowing the right way to go. God has spoken. One may be in a dangerous situation engulfed with fear, and just as a bird would fly from its' roost, fear is gone and peace settles into the heart. God has spoken. His voice has arrived.

Forty-eight times in the Bible, we find the words "voice of the Lord." The first appearance is in Genesis 3:8 *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.* I do believe the voice of the Lord as spoken to Adam and Eve was audible as received through the ear. God came in person and walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. Just as he walked physically, likewise, he talked physically. God's voice thundered on Mt. Sanai. The voice was audible. Today, the believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and God speaks through the indwelt Holy Spirit. God also spoke volumes to us in the Bible.

Let us look into Psalm chapter 29, a chapter devoted almost entirely to the topic of “the voice of the Lord.”

29:1-2

*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.*

Verse 1 and 2 makes it clear that the voice of the Lord originates in Heaven. All praise begins in the presence of the Lord. Oh, how I wish I could get a five second glimpse of Heaven! In particular, I wish I could see with my physical being the Lord of Heaven. I know this is not possible. One glimpse of Jehovah God, or even an angel, would devastate this mortal being in which we all dwell.

In verse 1, we see the word *mighty*. *Mighty* refers to the angels of Heaven. If you or I could see what they see, imagine how we would praise the Lord instead of complaining about our salary or house payment or the weather. Verse 1 instructs the angels to give unto the Lord glory. We are not to give glory to man. Paul said “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross.” We glory in professional athletes. We glory in our favorite sports team. What has a football player ever done for you or me? Not one of the 7 billion inhabitants of this earth is worthy of glory. Yet, the only god some have is a human being. Dear Lord, forgive us.

Verse 2 instructs the angels to *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name*. His name is above every name. He ought to be in every song we sing. He ought to be the text of message. What is so awful about lifting up the name of the Lord in the restaurant or at the store? We sing about him behind the four walls, and we preach from his word, the Bible. Yet, outside the walls of the church we get lockjaw. Why can't the Lord be bragged on in the halls of the schoolhouse?

Verse 2 instructs us to *worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness*. In Isaiah's vision of the Lord in Isaiah chapter 6, the

heavenly beings are circling the throne crying Holy- Holy-Holy. What is worship? It is extinct in our churches. We sing out of habit. We preach out of training and habit. What is worship? Merriam-Webster gives this definition for worship: to honor or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power and **2**: to regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion. My favorite synonym for worship is *adore*. I hear folk say they adore a baby. “Isn’t the baby adorable?” What about the Lord? When are we going to “knock yourself out” over the LORD?

We worship his *name*, and we worship his *holiness*. Have you noticed the number of “stars” in the sports world and in Hollywood who have been charged with assault or domestic violence or tax evasion? The Lord is Holy. If you can find a holy man or woman, I will join you in worshipping that person. We adore God’s name, and we adore his holiness.

29:3-4

*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.*

Six times in this short chapter we find the phrase *the voice of the Lord*. In verse 3 and 4, the voice is *upon the waters*. What are the *waters*? Water is the most common substance on this planet earth. Thus, *waters* in verse 3 refers to the un-regenerated masses of mankind dwelling on planet earth. There are more sinners on earth than there is of any other classification of man. There are more sinners than there are doctors. There are more sinners than there are engineers. Thus, we believe *waters* is God’s voice to sinners. Isaiah 57:20 *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.* Revelation 17:15 *And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*

The voice of God speaks to sinners like *thunder*, verse 3. Thunder reminds us of a storm. God has a stormy message for sinners: repent or perish. His voice to sinners is described as *powerful* in verse 4. The Lord's voice to sinners is described as *full of majesty* in verse 4. How majestic it is when we consider the words of the Lord to the sinners in Matthew 11:28-30 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

29:5-6

*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.*

In verse 5 and 6, we move from the waters to the cedars of Lebanon. The cedar tree we are familiar with, but the cedar we know is not the tall and stately cedar of Lebanon. The cedar of Lebanon is a straight and tall tree. It is considered a noble tree and is the most prominent tree referenced in the Bible. The two mountains, Mount Lebanon and Mount Sirion (Mount Hermon) are the most noble mountains in the Holy Land. Therefore, the voice of the Lord speaking to noble trees and noble mountains is the voice of the Lord speaking to saved, spiritual men and women.

Have you ever had God speak to you in the manner of a storm? God can send the spiritual a very strong message. Sometimes, we only understand stormy messages. Elijah was ultimately spoken to by God in a still small voice, but it took two storms to get his attention before he was ready to listen to God. What about the stormy message God sent to King David? After his sin with Bathsheba, God sent a preacher by the name of Nathan to point his finger in the face of David and expose his sin by saying to him "thou art the man."

How strong can God's message be to a child of God? He can make a cedar tree skip like a calf. When God's voice speaks to you, you will *get in gear*, as the saying goes. Through the ages, the voice of the Lord has made many children of God skip to the altar. The voice of God can make a child of God skip over to the neighbor's house and apologize for doing him wrong.

I know I am saved for I did what the Bible says to do to be saved. I also know I am saved by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in me. Additionally, I know I am saved by the number of times God has splintered my bark and shook me for my wrongdoing. If there is not something in you that causes you to shake when you go to the mountains on Sunday instead of to God's house, you need to do an inventory on your soul.

I know little about a unicorn. Merriam-Webster says this: a mythical, usually white animal generally depicted with the body and head of a horse with long flowing mane and tail and a single often spiraled horn in the middle of the forehead. From verse 6, we read that the voice of the Lord can cause the noble mountains, Mt. Lebanon and Mt. Sirion (Hermon), to move like a young unicorn. I imagine that is a sight to behold. If the voice of the Lord does not light your fire, then, your wood is wet.

Let us now look at a third place the voice of the Lord can speak.

29:7-9

*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.*

All men fall into three classifications: the un-regenerated sinner, the saved person, and the saved person who is living a carnal life. Verse 7-9 address the voice of the Lord to the carnal man. We all dread danger. We try diligently to avoid danger in our life. Yet, a

person saved by God's grace who has turned their back on God is walking in grave danger. We see in verse 7 the voice of the Lord can divide flames of fire. This is in reference to forked lightning. What a fearful sight it is to look into the heavens and watch great bolts of lightning divide and divide again and appear like the root of a plant. A carnal man is in great danger. Lightning may strike. A carnal man lives in great danger. Read the book of Jonah. God had a wind, a whale, and a worm customized for rebellious Jonah.

In verse 8, the voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness. The wilderness is a barren place. A carnal man is not bearing fruit. A wilderness is boring and uneventful. Such is the life of a carnal man, a backslider. A wilderness is a tough place to abide: Proverbs 13:15 *Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.* Is it really possible to stay backslid 20 years?

Finally, to the carnal man the voice of the Lord can be fruitful. Verse 9 likens the voice of the Lord to a hind having a calf. God's design for the life of every saved person is that they bear fruit. God wants every saved person to have a calf, that is, to yield fruit. God can forgive the carnal man if he will come to a place of asking for forgiveness. The stale, barren believer can turn to God and once again serve alongside the brethren advancing the kingdom of God.

29:10

*The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.*

This is a simple verse and easy to understand but hard for many to accept. This verse speaks of the sovereignty of God. God reports to no man, no organization, and no government. The flood refers to the earth. Do you believe the LORD will rule the earth some day?

29:11

*The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.*

I do believe peace in the innermost part of a man is God's design for his children's life. Storms will come to every child of God. Just as Jesus was asleep in the bowels of the ship on the Sea of Galilee, we can have peace in a stormy world that is getting stormier every day.