

GOD OF THE STORM

Tuesday, March 6

Reading: Psalm 29

Psalm 29:10 *The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. 11 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Hurricane Harvey slammed into Texas in late August of 2017 with wind speeds up to 130 mph. It caused \$125 billion in damage and at least 108 deaths. It caused flooding in many cities including Houston. An estimated 32,000 people were displaced in shelters across the state and more than 210,000 people registered with FEMA for disaster assistance. Even now, months after the storm, there is still much to be done and more help needed to recover.

Storms can be scary. They can be painful. They can be destructive. But beyond all this is a God who is in control, even of the storms. Psalm 29 compares the voice of the Lord to a mighty storm. You can almost picture David standing on his palace balcony watching the gathering storm. He sees the dark clouds gather over the Mediterranean Sea. The waves crash on the shore as the storm builds with intensity. David hears the thunder of the approaching tempest (29:3-4). The storm makes landfall up north in Lebanon. Its' mighty cedar trees are shaken by the wind and split by bolts of lightning (29:5-6). Now the storm hits Jerusalem with powerful force that bends the trees before passing over into the desert of Kadesh south of the city (29:7-9). It is a breath-taking sight!

Yet in all this destructive power, David hears the voice of the Lord. He is sitting above the storm and flood. He is in control! In the quietness after the storm, David realizes it is God who gives His people strength to ride out the storms, both literal and spiritual. In the end, those who trust in Him will be blessed with His peace (29:10-11).

With these thoughts in mind, it is no wonder that David began this psalm with a call to give God the honor He deserves. It is a call to remember that in the before, during, and after the storm God deserves all praise and we are to “worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness” (29:1-2).

The storms of life can be as damaging and scary as a hurricane. But I find it comforting that this psalm so full of the violence and noise of a storm ends with the word “peace.” On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus had some comforting words for His followers: “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Are you going through a storm? Are you picking up the pieces of your life in its aftermath? Can you hear God's voice in your storm? Remember, we serve the God of the storm. He will give you strength to carry on. Praise Him!

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Harvey