

The LORD Gives His Strength to His People

December 8, 2019 | Outline Psalm 29 | Pastor Jeff Heslop

1-2 The LORD calls upon the angels to worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

3-9 The LORD's mighty power is the reason for worship.

10-11 The LORD gives His people His own strength and blesses them with peace.

1-2 The LORD calls upon the angels to worship Him in the beauty of holiness.

Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones,
Give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The mighty ones are the angels of heaven, Job 2:1, in the heavenly court.

Give means to ascribe, acknowledge, give credit to whom it is due. The Hebrew word for glory is *kabod*. The root meaning is to be heavy or weighty as in a weighty matter. It means great importance, splendor, great worth. Worship means to bow down, pay homage, give great respect and honor. It is the natural response of the creature to the creator.

3-9 The LORD's mighty power is the reason for worship.

In this section the strength of the LORD is described as a tremendous thunderstorm moving from the Mediterranean Sea eastward across Lebanon and Syria, north of Israel. In verses 3-9, the voice of the LORD is used seven times. It is by God's voice that nature is controlled.

3-4 The rise of the terrible storm over the sea

The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
The God of glory thunders;
The LORD is over many waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful
The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD is powerful. By His words He spoke all things into existence. See Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24. In this Psalm the LORD speaks and creates a tremendous thunderstorm over the Mediterranean Sea.

5-7 The full force of the storm forms over Lebanon and Syria

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars,
Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes them also skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD uproots the great cedars of Lebanon and shatters them. These great cedars were symbols of power but are no match for this tremendous thunderstorm. Skipping like a calf is a poetic description of an earthquake. Lebanon refers to the mountain range of Lebanon. Sirion is Mount Hermon. These mountains were over 9,000 feet tall and snowcapped. Mountains were considered immovable and

powerful. These mountains were north of Israel and were often the place of pagan worship. The Canaanites believed the gods lived among these mountains. The flames of fire refer to lightning. The LORD brought fire or lightning down from heaven to consume the offering of Elijah before the prophets of Baal.

David is teaching that the LORD is the God of nature, not some pagan god like Baal. The LORD is the one true God.

8-9 The storm continues as it passes east into the wilderness.

*The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth,
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple, everyone says, "Glory!"*

The LORD's terrible thunderstorm continues east into Syria and then the on to the wilderness of Kadesh. It is terrible and the earthquake causes the deer to calf early. All the fauna and flora are stripped away from the great forests. The terribleness of the great storm and its awesome power cause the worshippers of God to acknowledge that the LORD is Glory. The storm is not a meaningless display of nature but rather displays the glory of the LORD.

10-11 The LORD gives His people His own strength and peace.

*The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood,
And the LORD sits as King forever.
The LORD will give strength to His people;
The LORD will bless His people with peace.*

The LORD is king forever. He was king over the great worldwide flood of Noah. The Hebrew word translated flood here is only used of Noah's flood. The LORD knows how to save His own from great calamity. And the LORD is king now and for all eternity.

The LORD gives His people His own strength.

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has **reconciled** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight. Col 1:21-22

The LORD blesses His people with peace.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7