

## PSALMS 29

In the Latin Vulgate and in the Greek Septuagint versions of this psalm, reference is made to the “tabernacle” in the title. Scholars think there are two possibilities regarding this reference.

1. This Psalm was written in celebration of the Tabernacle that David erected in Zion to house the Ark of the Covenant.
2. This Psalm was sung at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles.

It simply calls for all creatures in heaven and earth to acknowledge the awesome power of God and to praise Him. That call to praise and worship is followed by examples of God’s greatness as seen in the physical realm associated with a storm.

### CALL TO ADORATION

{29:1} Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. {2} Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The first appeal is either to the angelic host (mighty ones) or to the leaders of the nations. The Hebrew term for “mighty ones” is *ben el* and can literally be translated as “sons of God.” If the reference is to the angelic host, then they would be in position to see and know the glory and strength of God. On the other hand, if the reference is the leaders of the nation, then the call would be for them to recognize that all power and glory must go to God rather than to themselves. (This would be a call for humility which is pleasing to God.) There is none in heaven nor in earth as great as the Lord. Everyone, regardless of status, must acknowledge the greatness of God and submit themselves to Him.

Recognizing and acknowledging the greatness of God is necessary preparation for true worship. We can worship only that which we hold in high regard and consider to be worthy of worship. The praise we give to God must be in accordance with His nature, His perfection, and everything that is implied in His NAME. This would tell us that we can not possibly praise God enough since He is infinite.

Regarding the exhortation to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, we see a spiritual implication as well as a physical implication.

From a **spiritual** perspective, holiness **is** the beauty of God. It is what (literally) set Him apart from everything else. This holiness applies to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (being of the same nature and perfections). In a sense, this same holiness can also be ascribed to all that truly belong to God: the host of angel that do His bidding and to the “saints” who are the people of God. As all of creation witnesses the beauty of His holiness, then this evokes worship. The other side of this “spiritual perspective” coin is that only those who participate in the holiness of God (which is imputed to those whom He has redeemed) are able to truly worship Him.

The **physical** implication of this call to worship God would be related to the place of worship. The sanctuary was that area set apart and made beautiful to represent the glorious nature of God. As one would enter the sanctuary there should be an overwhelming sense of “this is a special place” since it would be so beautiful. Coming into the sanctuary should evoke a sense of awe and would naturally lead to worship.

### THE AWESOME GRANDEUR OF HIS POWER (3-10)

{3} The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. {4} The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. {5} The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. {6} He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. {7} The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. {8} The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. {9} The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

Just as the majesty of God is pictured in the moon and star at night (Psalm 8) and in the sun by day (Psalm 19) so we see a dramatization of His power and majesty in the thunderstorms on earth. We have seen the result of a lightning strike on a large tree and have felt even the ground to shake near the clasp of thunder. Knowing the tremendous voltage differences involved in causing static electricity to spark even a few inches (over 100,000 volts), we are overwhelmed when we consider that a lightning bolt may cover thousands of feet. That which we erroneously credit to “Mother Nature” is the results of what God is doing to speak to us from His Creation.

The power of lightning and thunder can be thought of as demonstrating in the physical world the awesome power of the word of God in the spiritual world. When we read His word and believe and act on His word, then we unleash the power of the voice of God in our lives and those around us.

If we think of the waters as the nations and the “voice of the Lord” as the “word of God,” then we get a spiritual perspective on this passage. In this same context, we can think of the cedars of Lebanon as representing the strength and the most prominent aspect of a heathen nation, then we see that the word of God is more powerful than the best that any government and nation can develop.

If you have ever seen what a tornado can do to a tree, then you could imagine seeing trees flying around like a calf kicking up its heels. Making a mountain move would take an earthquake which was not unusual for that area of the world.

What kind of mountain do we have in our minds that need to be moved by the word of God. We get a lot of ideas from the world that we just know are truth but really have no basis. For example, the current teaching on evolution as the source of life and that mankind evolved from some sort of primordial soup is a mountain that appears to be unmoveable in the minds of most people. The word of God shakes up that theory which is flawed even from a scientific basis.

{10} The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

In the desert country, thunderstorms bring flash floods. These are powerful displays of fast moving walls of water that sweeps away everything in its path. Just as buildings and people are overcome by a rushing twenty foot high wall of water, so the word of God is powerful to change the lives of people and the course of history.

The Lord is over all the nations as the King of all creation and eventually all will acknowledge this fact in eternity.

#### ASSURANCE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

{11} The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Knowing the awesome power of the God we serve and knowing His love and mercy to those who fear Him, we find strength in His power and peace in His presence. We can have peace in the midst of the storm and when troubles come because we are cared for and loved by the One Who is all powerful and in control of all the forces of the natural world AND the spiritual world. These are truly blessing from the Lord.