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Lesson 17: Psalm 29

Psalm 28

Author: David

Background: Unknown

Theme: Trust in God is encouraged by the celebration of His mighty power as illustrated in His dominion over the natural world, in some of its most terrible and wonderful exhibitions.¹ It gives a sense of tranquility and awe.²

Outline (The outline comes from Wiersbe's Bible Exposition Commentary with additional notes from other resources as noted.)

Wiersbe says, "Jewish worshipers today use this psalm in the synagogue as a part of their celebration of Pentecost. When you read Acts 2 and discover the sound of wind, tongues of fire, and the 'thunder' of God's voice through His Word, you can see that God's church today can also use Psalm 29 to celebrate Pentecost."

This psalm magnifies the sovereignty of God and His power in His creation, both of which bring glory to God. David, in the midst of the storm, sees God's glory revealed in three different places.

I. God's Glory in the Heavenly Temple (v. 1-2)

¹ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (257)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Heaven is a place of worship. The KJV's "O ye mighty" is also translated "sons of the mighty", probably a reference to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psa. 89:6).

Compare "give" in v. 1 with Psa. 96:8

Compare "beauty of holiness" with Psa. 96:9

II. **God's Glory in the Earthly Tempest (v.3-9)**

David now describes storms that started somewhere over the Mediterranean Sea (v.3) and moved eastward to the Lebanon mountain range in the northern part of the land of Israel (v.5). It continued moving eastward overland to Mt. Hermon (v.6), turned south and traveled about 200 miles to Kadesh in the wilderness (v.8) and eventually dispersed. Its good to know the Lord can cause storms to pass over!

Compare "The Voice of the LORD" (loud thunder) with Psa. 18:13

Compare v.6 with Psa. 18:7

The Canaanites believed the cedars of Lebanon housed their gods. As David speaks of God breaking the cedars of Lebanon, he is painting a picture of God's superiority over any other god. There are no gods beside our great and mighty God!!! He is worthy of glory!

III. **God's Glory on the Heavenly Throne (v.10-11)**

The reference to the flood in these verses is probably in mind of the days of Noah (Gen. 6-9). As David watches the storm pass, he rejoices in the God who created the universe also control the forces of nature. He has nothing to fear. Neither do we! The same Lord over all of creation blesses His people with strength and peace! Be encouraged!

The glory of God rests on all his creation: sky, sea, land, and wilderness. The psalmist reflects on the thunderstorm as a powerful illustration of the majesty and power of the God of Israel. The glorious God (El) manifests his glory and strength even in a thunderstorm at sea. The region of the sea was considered by the Canaanites to be the battleground between Yam, the god of the sea and of chaos, and Baal, the god of fertility and thunderstorms. El, the chief of the Canaanite pantheon, was the benign father of the gods. The direct reference to Yahweh as the glorious El may contain a polemic allusion to the superiority of Yahweh over Baal. Yahweh rules sovereignly over the "mighty waters." The Mediterranean Sea was known to the psalmist as a mighty force, whose powerful waves could cause great destruction. But the Lord is sovereign over the terrible forces of the sea (cf. 93:3-4).³

³ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (255). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.