



Brown Community Group

Discussion Guide

The Psalms: Psalm 29, March 14th, 2021

I. Starter Questions and Context:

How often do we sit down and think about God's Glory? What about his great majesty? In our created world His great and mighty power is evident in everything we see, do and use; are we watching, observing and attributing this power and glory where it is due, or are we just blindly bludgeoning through life with no observance? How can we attune our lives and spiritual relationship with God to begin appreciating his magnificent greatness? When we find His greatness and glory, we will begin to find our true meaning in life and eternal satisfaction.

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Psalm 29:1-11

[1] Ascribe to the LORD, O sons of the mighty, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. [2] Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in holy array. [3] The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders, The LORD is over many 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; Yes, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. [6] He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, And Sirion like a young wild ox. [7] The voice of the LORD hews out flames of fire. [8] The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. [9] The voice of the LORD makes the deer to calve And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everything says, "Glory!" [10] The LORD sat as King at the flood; Yes, the LORD sits as King forever. [11] The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

Brief Explanation:

This psalm has all the earmarks of the earliest Heb. poetry (cf. Ex 15; Jdg 5). As to its general form, it is a hymn. Many of its images appear in parallel literature, especially in referencing pagan gods by various "forces of nature." However, the Lord is the unique Creator and supreme Sovereign over all these phenomena. He alone is "the God of gods" (Da 11:36). In view of these realities, 3 representative realms of the supremacy of God bring forth praise to Yahweh alone.

I. The Lord's Supremacy over Heavenly Beings (29:1, 2)

II. The Lord's Supremacy over the "Forces of Nature" (29:3-9)

III. The Lord's Supremacy over Humanity (29:10, 11)

The main theme of this Psalm is to give glory to God. The word used in ESV is "ascribe." This word means to "attribute something to" or "regard a quality as belonging to." The Hebrew word is "yahab," which means to "give" or "provide." We are to recognize, affirm, and declare God's glory in our mind, our words, and our actions. Ascribing glory to God is recognizing and proclaiming what he already has. Verse two says that we are to "ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name."

Throughout this passage we see David mention the "voice of the Lord" many times. In each instance it demonstrates His power and supremacy over the world around us. His sovereign authority over all aspects of creation are highlighted from the weather, sea, vegetation, elements, and animal kingdom.

There are times in history when God has used His audible voice to interact with nature. The most obvious examples are in Genesis 1. God spoke words of command and the unmade objects of creation responded to His call, coming forth in perfect goodness.

David saw evidence of God everywhere he looked. If our eyes have been opened by Him, we will see the same. But not everybody sees this. Many people see these signs of God's presence and close their eyes, ears, and hearts, desperately repeating to themselves "it is only thunder."

III. Group Questions:

1. Who are the "Sons of the mighty" in verse 1? Are these heavenly or earthly?
2. What does it mean to "ascribe to the Lord glory and strength?"
3. How does the concern for the glory of God manifest itself in our actions and prayers?
4. What are some ways that we can be more aware of God's glory?
5. What are some ways we can give glory to God?
6. Do you think verses 3-8 are literal or figurative? What do the following mean to you?
 - a) The voice of God is upon the Waters
 - b) The God of Glory thunders
 - c) The Lord is over many waters
 - d) The voice of the Lord breaks cedars
 - e) The voice of the Lord hews out flames of fire
 - f) The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness
7. Do you think David actually heard this voice of the LORD? If not, what was he describing?
8. How can we have the same awareness about God's involvement in nature (Romans 1)?
9. How can we raise our eyes above the flood and focus on God?
10. Where can you see God's presence with you?

IV. Responding in prayer:

Lord, there are so many examples of Your great glory and majesty. For ever since the world was created, through all that has been made, we can clearly see Your invisible qualities - Your eternal power and divine nature. Lord, as vast as this world is, you know me, and love me. How majestic is your name! Help me tune my ear to Your voice, that I may live humbly and walk with wisdom before You. May I worship You.