

Psalm 29 Bible Study Transcript

Hello, everyone. Welcome. We are in our Psalm study and today we are going to be reading Psalm 29. Now, 29 is a Psalm of praise to the glory and majesty and strength of God. Something that I think we need to be reminded of on a regular basis. There's a lot of chaos going on in this world. A lot of struggles with not only the Coronavirus, but political strife and the contention that is going on, the threat of stifling free speech and by extension free religion. So all of this to be said, it's useful to be reminded that God is in control and that he has all power, majesty, and might. And for whatever reason, He is allowing us to go through this challenging time. And so, I encourage us all to be faithful and stand firm in the confidence of the glory of God and His majesty and His might and His power. And to trust Him that even if this means a hardship for us, that this is still what God has given to us, and it is good. And let us praise His Name no matter what.

So Psalm 29 (from *Reading the Psalms with Luther*):

The 29th psalm is a prophecy of the Gospel, that it shall resound with power throughout the world and overthrow the wisdom and renown of all kings, princes, lords, and peoples, and Christ alone shall be the only King. He shall be served and glorified with true wisdom and holiness. Therefore, He established the flood, Baptism, in which the old Adam is drowned and the new man arises. He gives the name of deserts, forests, and deer to the lands of the earth that were under Jew or Gentile and that have been opened and converted to the Gospel. This psalm belongs in the Third Commandment and in the Second Petition.

Psalm 29.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth 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 give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Now in the Old Testament, this would be interpreted I'm sure as power and majesty of God in might and wonder and awe, and which is indeed true. God is truly the most awesome, amazing, wonderful, worshipful Holy God, a Holy creature that we could ever imagine. Well, not even creature, the one who created all things. And yet, when we look at it from a Gospel point of

view, and from this side of the cross, we hear something different when we hear the voice of the Lord. The voice of the Lord is the Word of God. And so when we hear the voice, we hear the Lord, we hear the Son of God with the power of the Holy Spirit behind it. And He transforms lives, not through power and majesty, but through weakness and death and resurrection, through the power of the Gospel and the waters of baptism. He makes all things new. He conquers civilizations with the Gospel. He conquers our own hearts and our own sinful natures. And ultimately, He conquered sin and death itself. As a result of His Son, the Word become flesh and dwelling among us.

And so when we hear the voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire or the voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, I want us to see that and think about that as all of the struggles and trials of this world are nothing compared to the strength of the Word of God. And so we can be at peace knowing that He will provide for us and take care of us, even if there is struggle and strife in our lives. Even if there's persecution and torture and torment in our lives, we can still be confident that God is in charge and that He is going to bless us with His presence, even in the midst of horrible things happening.

I don't know what the future of this world holds in the immediacy of the next year or two or 10. I do know that ultimately this world will be destroyed and all the kingdoms and powers and principalities and authorities and rulers will be wiped out and all will stand before the face of God and give account of what they have done. Those that have served Him and believed in His name will be welcomed into paradise. Those that do not, into eternal damnation. That is the hope and the promise that we look forward to, that God would save us, that He would redeem us and restore us. And then He would bring vengeance, if we are indeed called to suffer for the Gospel, that He would pay back evil with His good. Hold fast to the promises of God.

Thanks and praise be unto You, our God and Lord, for sending us the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in which You teach us the way of salvation and comfort us with the hope of everlasting life. Make Your Word in us a power of salvation, and the anchor of our souls in life and death. Cause also the voice of Your Word to be sounded abroad, that the nations that do not know You may come to Your light. Amen.