

## God Rides the Storm (or, The King of Storms)

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Psalm 29 (text: v. 10)

Psalm 29 is one of the most descriptive poems of David. It is a magnificent description of a thunderstorm.

- Spurgeon said “this Psalm marches to the tune of thunderbolts.”
- Another writer called Psalm 29—“The Psalm of seven thunders.” The “*voice of the Lord*” is mentioned seven times in Psalm 29 and pictured as “thunder.” These are the “*seven thunders*” of Revelation 10:4.

When I lived in Michigan thunderstorms were very common in the spring and summertime. I remember some of those storms when I would spend part of the summer with my Grandparents at their cottage on Wolf Lake. Their cottage had a large screened front porch. I would enjoy sitting there and watch a thunderstorm blow in from across the lake. The sense of the awesome power in those summer storms was exhilarating—The whitecaps of the rising waves on the lake... the trees swaying in the wind... the bright flash of lighting... the deafening crack of thunder... and torrents of rain beating down upon the roof. WOW! There was just something mighty... majestic... and magnificent about it.

PROPHETIC application: Psalm 29 looks forward to “*the day of the Lord*” when Jesus comes as King and sweeps His enemies away in a mighty storm of wrath. When God thunders, the results are like an atom bomb going off. As in the case of Hiroshima, it causes pre-mature births (v. 9); it splits cedar trees in half (v. 5); it makes hills bounce up and down like calves (v. 6); it splits bolts of lightning (vs. 7); it shakes deserts and rocks (v. 8); and clears out forests (v. 9). It will be like “*lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west*” (Mt. 24:27).

➡ Above it all, sits the Lord enthroned in glory. And the last word is peace!

PRACTICAL application: It pictures the storms of life. Nobody is exempt from them. They sweep in, in their fury, and tear at us, breaking, destroying, sweeping away family, fortune, friends.

**I. The COMMENCEMENT of the storm** (vs. 1-2).

- It takes time for a storm to develop. I watched the weather forecast on Tuesday. The radar showed the storm “brewing” in the Pacific Ocean and heading our way. Steve Pool described it as a giant “fire-hose” aimed in our direction.
- A. **Based upon God’s THRONE** (vs. 1-2).
- Psalm 29 begins in heaven. “*The LORD*” is mentioned eighteen times. Add to that the use of pronouns and the mention of God and King we have God mentioned no less than twenty-five times in eleven short verses.
  - Storms ultimately spring and originate in God. They find their proposes in God’s will. He uses storms to deliver a message.
    1. Don’t blame your storm on your spouse... children... boss... parents. “*The LORD sitteth upon the flood.*” He is the ultimate “Weatherman / Meteorologist”
    2. Behind Satan’s interruptions and disturbances there is a God who is in charge—The Lord reigns over the storms of life.
- B. **Brought in God’s TIMING** (v. 3). There is an anticipation of the storm brewing on the waters. It’s moving our way. Then comes the hour when the storm breaks upon the shores of our life.
- C. **Blessed with God’s TRIUMPH** (v. 4). No hint of defeat in these words. The storm will accomplish the purpose God sent it to do. The devil wreaks havoc, but we need to get beyond that to see how God wants to use the storm for His glory and our spiritual development.
- The word “*glory*” is used four times in the psalm (vv. 1-3, 9), for David saw in the storm God's glory revealed

**II. The COVERAGE of our storms** (vs. 5-8). The movement of the storm.

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David was in Jerusalem, in his palace built on Mount Zion, the highest point. He could view the whole land. He could look to the northwest and see the ominous clouds gathering as the storm was brewing over the waters of the Mediterranean Sea (v. 3). Angry waves mount up as the storm strikes inland. David watches it march from north to south.

He describes the fierce raging of the storm as it breaks over Lebanon and Mt. Hermon (29:5-6). Mighty cedars break like reeds: *"The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars... He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion [Hermon]..."*

This is not a summer rain shower—Not an ordinary storm. It is like a hurricane or tornado.

Jerusalem will not escape it — it comes closer and closer. The

A. **Delivery** (v. 9)— He births things in the storm. **Brings life.**

- **Births truth in us** in the storm. You've read a particular passage of Scripture many times, but it doesn't make much sense to you. But in a storm, suddenly that Scripture comes alive and gives you the help you need—*"The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve."*

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Preaching is sometimes like delivering a child. A child is **conceived** in a mother... **grows** within her... Her **excitement** grows as the delivery date approaches. She wants everyone around her to be as excited about it as she is. That which was conceived is eventually **born**. A **room** has already been prepared in your house for the newborn to live in when it arrives.

The same process takes place when a sermon is birthed in a preacher's heart. A **seed** of Scripture is planted. Then the truth of that Scripture begins to **takes form**. The preacher is **excited** as it is developed. Finally the day comes when the sermon is **delivered in a room** of people ready to receive it. There will be someone in that room whose life has been prepared for the truth of that sermon to live in.

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B. **Discovery.** We see things we've never seen. We see things different and clearly.

C. **Development** (v. 11). God will use the storm to strengthen you.

1. The psalm begins and ends mentioning God's "*strength*" (v. 11), and verses 4-9 demonstrate that strength in the description of the storm.
2. God can strengthen and enable us to go through the storms of life. In every storm of life He is in control, and He will bless His people with peace.
3. Sometimes He calms the storm... Sometimes He calms us within the storm.

**SUMMATION:** Are you going through a storm? There are two things you should remember: (1) the storm will end, and (2) the Lord will bring you through it.