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Psalm 29: A Psalm of David

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Psalm 29
A Psalm of David
(ESV)

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,^(a)
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.^(b)**
- 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^(c)
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^(d) his people with peace!**

Footnotes:

- a. (v.1) Hebrew *sons of God*, or *sons of might*
- b. (v.2) Heb lacks *in holy attire*
- c. (v.9) Revocalization yields *makes the oaks to shake*
- d. (v.11) Or *The Lord will give... The Lord will bless*

Psalm 29 is a magnificent hymn of praise of the power and majesty of God, signified in this instance by the thunderstorm. This Psalm may well have been used in public worship at the beginning of the rainy season in the autumn.

The Canaanites, the local people who were resident in Palestine before Israel entered, exercised continuing influence upon the Israelites, especially with their religion of Baal worship. Baal was the storm-god of the Canaanites. Psalm 29 seems to be written in conscious opposition to Baal-worship, ascribing all glory and strength and worship instead to the LORD Yahweh. The noise of the various elements of a severe storm – the heavy downpour of the rain, the thunder, the lightning splitting trees – all these are “the voice of the LORD,” and give him glory. The thunder of the storm is associated with God’s voice, and the phrase “The voice of the LORD” appears seven times in this Psalm (compare Revelation 10:3). But awesome as these events are, the LORD sits above them all as the sovereign Creator. And from his position of highest power he gives his people the blessing of peace, that is, of shalom, of well-being.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 29:

Lord our king, your voice sounds over the waters as you reign above the flood. Help us, who are born again by water and the Holy Spirit, to praise your wonderful deeds in your holy temple; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Linger longer over verse 11:

(It is) **the LORD (he alone, who) shall give strength to his People;**
(It is) **the LORD (he alone, who) shall give his People the blessing of peace.**