

## ***The Voice of the Lord***

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

**The voice of the Lord** is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over many waters.

**The voice of the Lord** is powerful;  
**the voice of the Lord** is full of majesty.

**The voice of the Lord** breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**The voice of the Lord** flashes forth flames of fire.  
**The voice of the Lord** shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of the Lord** makes the deer give birth  
and strips the forests bare,  
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

There is one phrase repeated seven times in this psalm. Clearly this is the theme the psalmist wants to stress and wants us to think about and

remember: **the voice of the Lord.**

It is a very powerful voice. It is like thunder. It shakes the earth. Therefore if this voice is *against* you, there should be great fear - what force could withstand its power? But if this voice is *for* you, there should be great confidence - for no force can withstand its great power!

Which is it for us? Maybe when your life is filled with troubles and trials, you think it is the first. God is against you, or punishing you. But when life is good and easy, maybe you think it is the second. God is for you and blessing you. But how long will the good last before trouble comes? Will trials last forever? Or will good finally come? Who knows? And on this basis, who knows what God really thinks of us. Maybe it is even up to us to make God like us and use His voice for us. But if this is how you think, you can never be sure, you can never be confident in God or His love for you.

But the truth is not based on what is happening to us at any given moment, or how we are feeling at a particular time. The truth is more solid than that. So how do we know? How do we know whether the voice of the Lord is for us or against us? *We look to the cross.* For there is the voice of the Lord. There is the Word of God made flesh for us. And He is dying for us. For you. And when He speaks, His voice thunders mercy and love. For He says, *Father, forgive them* (Luke 23:34), and *Today, you will be with me in Paradise* (Luke 23:43). And He says those things while He is hanging on the cross! So that we know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the voice of the Lord is for us. To save us.

Sometimes that saving might come through troubles and trials - God working not against you but really for you in them. And He can, for His greatest victory for you, His greatest work for you, came how? Through dying on the cross. For then He rose from the dead to save you from death and give you life after death - a life that will never end.

The end of this psalm expresses that confidence. For the Lord who once hung

on the cross and suffered for our sins, now sits enthroned as king forever. A merciful king. For just as He came to have mercy on us, so He still is. And He is now reigning for you, to bless you. And that is His glory. We may not always understand the “hows” and “whys,” but we can be confident in Him and His love. That yes, He is a powerful God, who uses His strength for the weak and needy. For you and me.

*Lord Jesus, Word of God made flesh, thank You for coming down from heaven to die for my sins and the sins of the world. Thank you for your voice which speaks to us of your amazing love and the forgiveness of our sins. In a world filled with troubles, that is the thunder we need! Help me to be confident of your love no matter what I face this day, and help me to encourage others by telling them of your love and forgiveness for them, too. And grant that I see you enthroned in glory, in the life you give, the life that never ends. Amen.*