

Study Guide - Psalm 29
April 26, 2023

Introduction: What is your favorite psalm? Why? What makes the book of Psalms such a beloved book?

1. How does a thunderstorm make you feel? Does it make you think of God?

2. Read Psalm 29. What would you say is the 'theme' of this psalm? What phrase appears repeatedly? What is the main message?

3. What are the ways God chooses to speak to us?

4. In v. 1-2 there are four commands that are given, three of them are a repetition of the same word. What do these words tell us about what it means to praise God?

5. How often is the name of God repeated in this Psalm? Why would the name be repeated so often?

6. The psalm addresses a specific audience in v. 1 (ESV, "O heavenly beings"). What are ways this phrase might be understood (Compare Genesis 6:2; Job 1:6; Psalm 89:6)? Why would this psalm speak to them?

7. How could the content of v. 2 help us to praise the LORD? We looked at the commands above, "ascribe to the LORD" and "worship the LORD," but think about the things David focuses on, "the glory due his name" and "the splendor of his holiness". What do these phrases bring to mind as you think of praising the LORD?

8. What does "the voice of the LORD" do in v. 3-9?

9. Have you been in or seen the results of a violent storm/flood? What are ways that you have seen the power in a storm?

10. What storms are you facing in your life right now? How are you responding? What are things that you can apply from this psalm in your response?

11. If the imagery of the Psalm is connected to a thunderstorm, imagine a person reading this psalm who has just had their house burn down or had all their appliances and technology fried because of a lightning strike, or had their basement flooded because of a huge rainfall in connection with a thunderstorm. How might they react to this psalm?

12. What are some ways we might respond to a person struggling with this passage of Scripture in those circumstances? What are some things we can say from Scripture as a whole regarding God and the storm (natural disasters)?

13. Think about the sound of thunder crashing. It overwhelms and overpowers everything else. If the voice of the LORD is like that, how can anyone not hear him speak? What things in our lives might drown out the voice of the LORD? How do the following verses describe God's speaking to us – 1 Kings 19:11-13; Isaiah 42:2-3; Hebrews 4:12-13?

14. What comes to mind when you see the word 'flood' in v. 10? Consider that the word for "flood" here appears in the Old Testament 13 times. The other 12 of them are in Genesis 6-11. Does that connection add anything to how you understand the power of the storm here in Psalm 29?

15. Most of Psalm 29 describes the actions of God with the image of a mighty and powerful rainstorm, inspiring not only awe but even fear. However, the psalm ends (v. 11) describing the actions of God in a very different way. What does the psalmist pray for? How does this complete the picture of God that David has painted?