

Sunday Night Message

June 16, 2013

Psalm 29 – The Storms of Life

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 29:1 - 11

Introduction

Similar to other “Nature Psalms”

Similar to Psalm 8 – to be read on a moonlight night.

Similar to Psalm 19 – to be read at high noon.

This Psalm is to be read in the storm. This Psalm is actually a description of a thunderstorm.

This is a Psalm of Hebrew poetry, which is not intended to rhyme, but uses parallelism – that is it repeats an idea or a meaning over and over again.

This Psalm contains three sections: a prologue (vs. 1 – 2), and epilogue (vs 10 – 11); and then the main content - the storm (vs. 3 – 9).

I The Prologue – A Recognition of God’s Glory

Or, really a plea for the people to recognize God’s glory.

The word “give” does not mean that God receives His glory from us. God’s glory is already infinite. This verse is saying that we should ascribe God’s glory – recognize God’s glory.

Another example of this is where the Psalmist said: “magnify the Lord with me”. We cannot make God bigger, but we can see God bigger.

“o ye mighty” – from a combination of the Hebrew words “ben” and “el” sometimes the Hebrew word “el” refers to God – sometimes to angels, and sometimes to mighty men (men of power). The same group of Hebrew words “el” and “ben” is used in Psalm 89:6, which is translated:

*“For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? who among the **sons of the mighty** can be likened unto the LORD?” (Psalms 89:6)*

I think the context would demand that this passage is directed to God's people.

David was exhorting the people of God to recognize God's glory before the storm rolls in.

"in the beauty of holiness" – see 1 Chronicles 16:7 – 36 (notice v. 29); 2 Chronicles 20:20 – 22; this phrase is also in Psalm 96:9.

this phrase has the idea of sincere, private, humble, and inward worship; as opposed to public, outward, and often prideful religion.

Why did David want them to worship the Lord, and ascribe unto Him the glory due unto His name, because the storm is coming.

I don't know what storm in life you will face, but there will be one coming sooner or later. It is best to face the storms of life having already recognized the glory and awesome power of the Lord.

II The Power - A Rehearsal of God's Fury

Vs. 3 – 4 – the storm is gathering from the north.

This Psalm is most likely to be understood from the standpoint of Jerusalem; or at least Judaea. The waters referred to here most likely refer to the Mediterranean Sea.

Vs. 5 – 7 – the storm is raging overhead.

Sirion is the Sidonian name for Mt. Herman; and Lebanon are both to the northwest of Jerusalem.

Vs. 8 – 9 – the storm is passing to the south.

Kadesh Barnea is the desert area to the south of Jerusalem

Three thoughts about storms.

1 The storm immobilizes

Did you ever notice that everything stops when there is a storm passing over. Nobody goes anywhere. Everything stops. Before a storm it is often deathly quiet outside. The animals all seem to know that a storm is coming.

When you and I are going through the storms of this life, we are not usually going about our business as normal. Life just seems to stop until the storm passes by.

2 The storm instills fear (v. 9 – maketh the hinds to calf)

When we are going through storms we are afraid, and when we are afraid, we tend not to trust in ourselves, but instead cling to the Lord.

Illustrate – Tornado in Texas – I was asleep, but the kids were all gathered together around me in the bed.

During the bad thunderstorm last year the whole house was huddled together in the hallway.

3 The storm inspires worship (v. 9 “in the temple”)

There is nothing like a storm that brings life back into perspective. A storm will make us all like little children again, dependent on the protection of the Father.

III The Praise – A Rejoicing over God’s Victory

The word for flood here is only used in the Book of Genesis in reference to Noah’s flood.

The idea is that God is the God of the storm. He is over the storms of life.

God will allow some pretty nasty storms to enter into our lives, but He will always bring us through the storms, and eventually we will have peace.

The truly spiritual person can face the storms of life and never lose sight of the peace. In other words they can experience peace, even when the storm is raging.

If you’re in the boat with Jesus, you need not fear the storm.

“And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mark 4:36-41)