

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 29

Sovereign Majesty

Quote

“Sovereignty characterizes the whole being of God. He is sovereign in all his attributes.”

A. W. Pink

I. Introduction

The greatness of God’s unrivaled, unrestricted sovereignty calls for all creation to give him glory. The reign of his sceptre extends over all. Thus, all who recognize his supremacy should give him praise. This psalm is another song of confidence in God that voices the praise due his name. This is “a psalm of David” in which he saw an awesome electrical storm move across the land. He interpreted it as a theophony, an appearance of God. To this sovereign God who controls the weather, glory and strength should be ascribed.

From heaven where the angelic hosts pay him homage (vv. 1–2), to a violent thunderstorm that sweeps across the Middle East (vv. 3–9), to the universal flood that covered the earth (v. 10), the Lord sits as sovereign king over everything he has made. Orchestrating all events to their appointed end, God governs all peoples, places, and events for the good of his people (v. 11). As a polemic against pagan gods who competed with one another over land and sea, Psalm 29 magnifies the true God who rules over all creation.

II. Commentary

MAIN IDEA

David calls all creation to worship God who is sovereign over heaven, earth, and people.

A God’s Sovereignty Over Heaven (29:1–2)

29:1–2. This psalm begins in the splendor of the heavenly courts as David called upon the mighty ones, probably angelic beings, to worship the greatness of the Lord. This divine name is used eighteen times in this psalm. One of the chief functions of the angels is to acknowledge God’s intrinsic glory, or the fullness of his revealed nature, character, and strength. Such praise is due his name by the heavenly angelic choir of supernatural beings. They are called upon to worship him in the splendor (outshining) of his holiness (Heb. *qodesh*, see “Deeper Discoveries,” 15:1).

B God’s Sovereignty Over Earth (29:3–10)

29:3–4. This psalm shifts from heaven to earth as the awesome sounds of a thunderstorm are viewed as proclaiming the supremacy of God. The voice of the Lord was a ferocious thunderstorm that formed over the mighty waters of the Mediterranean Sea which thunders (1 Sam. 7:10; Job 37:4–5; Ps. 18:13; Isa. 30:30–31). This powerful storm was a reflection of the omnipotence of God.

29:5–7. This thunderstorm moved inland over the forests of Lebanon and broke in pieces the cedars, uprooting the tallest and strongest of trees. The towering mountains of Lebanon, dominated by Sirion (Phoenician name for Mount Hermon), were brought into submission by this storm that was forced to skip like a calf, dancing to the Lord’s tune. All this was by the decree of the Lord (Isa. 46:9–10) whose voice roared in the flashes of lightning.

29:8–9. This storm continued to move from the northern Lebanese mountains to the southern Desert of Kadesh. As this electrical storm thundered, the desert floor shook, and the lightning bolts struck the oaks, leaving them mangled. The lightning stripped the forests bare, removing entire sections of trees. Worshipers in the temple were moved to cry, “Glory!”—echoing the heavenly anthem above (vv. 1–2).

29:10. This thunderstorm was hardly comparable to a far greater storm—the universal flood (Heb. *mabbul*, found only in Gen. 6–11) in the days of Noah (Gen. 6–8). In that day, the Lord ruled enthroned above as King forever, judging the earth and drowning the wicked for their iniquities (Gen. 6:5–7).

C God’s Sovereignty Over People (29:11)

29:11. This sovereign God, presiding over heaven and earth, gives strength to his people, working in them to do his will. In an even greater display of his power, the Lord blesses his people with peace, even in life's storms, calming their hearts with the abiding assurance that he is God and he works for their ultimate good (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28).

III. Conclusion

All creation, both angelic beings and redeemed saints, exist to worship God and to give glory to God (Rom. 11:36). The highest purpose of man is to ascribe strength and splendor to God, who alone is holy. All of life must be lived with this grand theme resonating within our souls as we give glory to our sovereign Lord. Paul understood this when he said to the Corinthian Christians, "So whether you eat or drink ... do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). The overriding motivation in the Christian life must be to do everything, both in word and deed, to the glory of God (Col. 3:17). Therefore, let all the saints shout "Glory!" and ascribe to him the honor that is due his matchless name.¹

¹ Steven Lawson, [*Psalms 1–75*](#), ed. Max Anders, vol. 11, Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2004), 155–158.