

Turn in your Bibles to Psalm 29. We have said many times from this platform that everyone worships someone or something. We were created to worship! It is obvious of how we elevate athletes, actors and actresses, musicians, business icons, and yes even Pastors, to a level of admiration that it becomes worship. May I say this, that, each, and every one of those people will disappoint you.

Though they may have talents of acting, of throwing a ball through an iron hoop, hitting a baseball a country mile, throwing a baseball 100 mph. They may even be able to drive a golf ball, hit a golf ball and putt a golf ball that makes it look so easy. They may even have a business genius mind that has made them billions of dollars. The person may have a charismatic, vivacious personality that draws people to themselves. If that is at the core of their desire though, look at how great I am, then they are worshipping themselves as much as others may be worshipping them.

All those accolades, all the trophies, all the money, when they take their last breath, it all goes away! There is only one that our worship should be directed to and there is only one who is worthy of our worship. That is the Lord God Almighty!

Psalm 29 is a Psalm that directs who our worship should be devoted to, as well as describes why he is worthy of our worship and praise. We are going to do some things a little different tonight. As I am teaching you will see Tim make his way up to the platform. As we are worshipping in the teaching and listening of God's Word, we are going to pause and sing a song in worship to the Lord. Let's begin in our study tonight. Psalm 29 verses 1 and 2.

### ***Psalm 29:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.***

The word ascribe simply means to give. Most of you probably have heard the saying, "You have to give the person their due!" Now, that usually is used in a negative connotation. This is why! Because if you have ever said that phrase you are usually referencing someone you don't have a high regard for. Let's take a couple of recent examples.

Duke and Carolina basketball! How many of you thought Carolina was going to beat Duke in Durham that last home game and in the Final Four? But Carolina beat them both times! So, you may have said, or this phrase could have been said, "You have to give them their due!"

Since we are on Duke and Carolina, no matter your thoughts about Coach K, he is the winningest coach in college basketball history. So, we have to give him his due!

David in this Psalm is not talking about a sports team or a human being. David is talking about, the Lord God Almighty and the worship, praise, and glory, which is due him because of who he is! Let's face it there are many that do not show a high regard for God. In fact, Scripture tells us that all of us in our sinful state were at one time hostile towards God and were his enemies.

### ***Romans 8:7-8***

***<sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those, who are in the flesh, cannot please God.***

Staying in Romans: Let's read Romans 5:10

**Romans 5:10**

***<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.***

It doesn't matter what we think or how we feel towards God, he deserves and is worthy of our worship because of his very nature. When David says ascribe, give glory to the Lord, we are not bestowing upon him something from ourselves. We are recognizing what God already possesses within the very essence of his character.

**Psalm 8:1**

***<sup>1</sup> O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.***

Detailing the fact that God is creator, sovereign, is over and in control of all that goes on within the universe. Last week as Matthew taught from Psalm 19 the very first verse in that Psalm tells us this.

**Psalm 19:1**

***The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.***

It is through God's handiwork that we gain knowledge of his glory!

In these first two verses we see David, I would say implore, all beings to give glory to God that he deserves. In verse 1 the word heavenly beings are mentioned. The Hebrew word being used here is "el ben", meaning sons of gods, or sons of the mighty. This can reference the angels. When we think of angels worshiping God this image from Isaiah came to my mind.

**Isaiah 6:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"***

Moses in Exodus 33:18, asked God, "***Please show me your glory.***" What was Moses asking? I want to see you fully on display! Can we describe God's glory? I think we can by looking at God's attributes of his character. ***God is Creator, Eternal, Faithful, Holy, Omnipotent – All Powerful, Omnipresent – At all places, at all times, Omniscient – All Knowing, Sovereign, Love, Merciful, and Just!*** God's glory flows from all his attributes!

In verse 3 it talks about giving glory due his name. What is in a name? Possibly nothing unto itself. When you here someone's name though it brings thoughts of that person. Does it not? The Jewish nation put a lot into a name. Names meant a lot to them. In the context of this Psalm, we see a name that is continuously used throughout.

As we read through this Psalm we see the name Lord, 18 times. The actual name being used in each case, is Jehovah! Meaning existing one. Who did God tell Moses to tell the Israelites was sending him back to free them from the bondage of slavery in Egypt? I AM – Existing one! I Exist!

All life, all truth flows from and through the very existence of God! Therefore, he deserves our worship and praise due his powerful, matchless name.

As David was imploring that we ascribe, give to the Lord his due he details this is done through our worship. Verse 2 ends with a description of how we are to worship. Look at verse 2 again.

***Psalm 29:2***

***<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.***

What is also on display within his glory is his holiness. God's holiness shows us his perfection! Splendor refers to beauty. So, we worship God in the beauty of his holiness. Think again of the beauty we see through creation! Through the beauty and wonder of the sunsets and sunrises, seas and mountains, streams and valleys, the beauty and wonder of a newborn baby!

Though we are being implored to give glory to God that is due to and is only God's. We also see in Isaiah 43:7 that we are created for God's glory.

***Isaiah 43:7***

***Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.***

There is something very specific in that verse when it comes to being created for God's glory. We have to be called by his name. The only way we are called by his name, is if we have called on his name to save our souls through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are then called to live a life that shows the glory of God. Nothing of ourselves but in the transformation that has taken place in our lives we show through holiness and obedience to his word the glory of the Lord.

***Romans 12:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***

We worship with lives that are sacrifices unto holiness as we ascribe glory to the Lord in the splendor as we cry out Holy, Holy, Holy!

David, and I am going to use that word again, implores that all should give worship to God for he is worthy. What we see next is that he gives examples of God in action that shows his glory on display. Let's read verses 3 to 9.

***Psalm 29:3-9***

***<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. <sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. <sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. <sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. <sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. <sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"***

Matthew depicted in Psalm 19 last week that we see God's glory throughout creation. I will use the same picture he used last week of a sunrise at the beach.



We see the beauty, and, in that beauty, it may put us in awe of God's glory and power. What is being depicted in verses 3 through 9 is a storm that it is raging. Since we just looked at a picture of a sunrise, ***look at this picture.***



Have you ever been at the beach and watched a thunderstorm come rolling across the ocean towards you? Or maybe you have sat outside on your porch, or your deck, or in your yard and watched a thunderstorm approach. That is until the lightning strikes really close to you, and you go, "Uhhh, I think we better go in!" As we have seen the power and glory in God's creation and we will see his power through this storm, God is not unapproachable.

Six times in these seven verses we see these words, the voice of the Lord. Telling us what? He wants to speak to us! We will get into these descriptions that David is detailing in a moment but here is the creator of all the universe, the author of all truth and all life, desiring to speak to you and me. Wanting a close, personal, intimate relationship with each and every one of us!

Look at those verses again.

***Psalm 29:3-4***

***<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over many waters. <sup>4</sup> The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.***

We know that God sustains all things upon this earth. From our study in Genesis, we saw that his Spirit hovered over the waters as with his voice began to speak all things into existence. God is over, has control, over the waters within this storm that are held up in the clouds from the impending storm. Verses 3 and 4 show us that as he speaks there is power, authority, and majesty when God speaks.

As we continue to look at these descriptions, we may get this thought in our head that every time God speaks it is like it is depicted with this loud booming voice like in the movie, The Ten Commandments, as God spoke to Moses. Moses! Moses! Go get my people!

It isn't that height of tone that is being described here it is the weight, authority, and power of who is doing the speaking. Because of God's glory, power, and majesty there is a weight behind and even in a still small voice there is just as much power, weight, and majesty as God says, Dale, Dale! Power, authority, love, mercy, and yes, chastisement at times.

In verses 5 and 6, David gives a wonderful description to the Israelite nation that they will understand well.

***Psalm 29:5-6***

***<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.***

There are two landmarks mentioned in these verses that are very significant to the people in this region. In the northeast region of Israel is the area that was called Lebanon. There were mountains that stayed snowcapped the majority of the time and as the snow may melt at times it brought water into the lower region and kept it very fertile. The region contained these forests of cedar trees.



The cedar trees were a great export product throughout the whole region. Throughout the Old Testament the cedar tree was mentioned as an item of luxury and wealth. Cedar as you know gives off an aroma that is liked by some. Cedar is supposed to be a repellent to bugs and the wood is not as susceptible to decay. In 2 Samuel 5 we can read that David used cedar in his palace. Solomon would use cedar in the building of the Temple and in a palace he built.



As with any storm comes winds. The point here is this, as mighty as these cedar trees were, they were mere twigs to the power of God. The wealth and power that they may have given some are nothing against the power of God. As these mighty trees break, it is as if they are skipping across the area of Lebanon like a young calf that you see just jumping and hopping across the pasture. Just like these little guys!

The other landmark mentioned here is Sirion. We have to look at Deuteronomy Chapter 3 verses 8 and 9 to get more detail on this. This is where Joshua is leading the Israelites into the promised land and defeating the nations that God commanded them to eliminate from the land.

***Deuteronomy 3:8-9***

***<sup>8</sup> So we took the land at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon <sup>9</sup> (the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, while the Amorites call it Senir),***



Mount Hermon is the highest point in Israel. It was also called, the Sacred Mountain. It was visible from many different areas in Israel. David mentioned it several times in his Psalms and some scholars believe it to be where Jesus' transfiguration took place. The significance here is Sirion portrayed majesty and strength and this mountain did not hold up against God's power and just like a young wild ox David depicts the mountain moving and shattering under the voice of God.

Remember though, it is through God's Holy Spirit that he speaks to us to break us. To break us of our pride, our self-reliance on ourselves, our self-righteousness of thinking we are good. It is through God's voice speaking to us through his Word that brings us to the knowledge of who the Lord is, and the Lord is deserving of our worship with our lives beginning at repentance and calling on the Lord to save our souls.

David finishes up this description of the power of the Lord's voice and the power of this storm that is raging with these words.

***Psalm 29:7-9***

*<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. <sup>8</sup> The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. <sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"*



David mentions the lightning within a storm are flashes of light that can look like flames of fire. With the lightning comes what? Thunder! I am sure some of you, as I have, when the lightning struck, and the thunder rolled, that in our houses the windows shook, and it felt as if the ground shook also.

At the end of verse 9 we end up in a place that is a place of worship, solace, and comfort. The Temple! Within the Temple is the Holy of Holies was the presence of the Lord. Though the storm is showing us the power of the Lord's voice as he speaks, this also shows us that he is speaking within the storm. In the storms of our lives, the Lord is there to speak to us! In the joys of our lives the Lord is there to speak to us. In our day to day the Lord is there to speak to us!

The question is are we pausing long enough to listen. In our Bible study time, our prayer time do we take time to listen. Even in the quiet or even in the busyness of the day do we take time to listen. Let's take the next few moments and pause and listen. Listen to the voice of the Lord! The Lord is speaking, is he speaking to you about salvation, seeking to comfort you, seeking to direct you, wanting to give you wisdom and discernment! Pause and listen! Listen!

David ends this Psalm by reminding us once again of the power and majesty of the Lord.

***Psalm 29:10-11***

***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 his people with peace!***

We are reminded of the Lord's position. At the flood during Noah's time God sat in Lordship as the rain came, the fountains of the deep burst forth and the wickedness of man was judged. As we look at the chaos of this world and we look at the deviant maneuvering of a government here in the U.S. and around the world to try to silence the spread of the Gospel. It won't and can't happen because the Lord is enthroned as King forever!

The Lord's glory is on display every day for us to see. Yes, through creation, but mostly through his Word! It is through his Word, Prayer, and his Spirit that we are strengthened and the peace that passes all understanding will be given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Lord is on his throne! The Lord is in control and over all!

Look at the screens as I read these lyrics from the song, Over All I Know!

***You are the One above it all, I stand in awe  
You're the God over all I know  
No higher name, no greater throne, You stand alone  
You're the God over all I know  
You are the One above it all, I stand in awe  
You're the God over all I know  
No higher name, no greater throne, You stand alone  
You're the God over all I know***

May we ascribe glory to the Lord (The existing one, The I Am, The Great I Am)! May we worship in the splendor of the holiness of the Lord! For he is Over All We Know!