



Growth Group Curriculum Winter 2021  
*The Songs We Sing - Psalms in the New Year*  
Week 5 – February 7, 2021 - Psalm 29

**Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. In this time of the virus and social distancing, please meet safely outside or online. If your growth group would like to meet online or if you are aware of needs that the church can help fill, please let us know at [connect@ljpres.org](mailto:connect@ljpres.org). Thank you for loving and caring for each other.**

## Setting the Context

In Genesis 1, we read that the Spirit of God hovered over the waters and spoke creation into existence. From this moment on, the voice of God motif is found throughout scripture. Through the use of His voice, we are told that God creates, directs, encourages, destroys, and guides.

The purpose of Psalm 29 is to explain and proclaim the sovereignty, honor, and strength of God alone. It does this through a threefold sequence, which begins in the heavenly realms, moves to earthly creation, and ends in the throne-room of heaven. The beginning verses call all beings, earthly and divine, to recognize the ultimate divinity of God. The reason for this recognition is based on the actions of God in the past. God is due glory because of his self-assertion at the beginning of time. God has been and will always be in control of the cosmos.

In verse 3, the tense switches from past to present. The setting also moves from the heavens to the earth. Through the description of a raging thunderstorm, the psalmist depicts the power of God. Because God created all the elements of the storm, God is in control and ruling over it all. This sense of control, in the midst of chaos, reminds us that even creation obeys the voice of God. To take this description metaphorically, we can be confident that the storms in our life are ultimately surrendered, to the power of God.

The final section brings us back to the heavens as we see the Lord enthroned over everything, in heaven and on earth. The tranquility of this scene reminds us that there is no one or thing in heaven fighting for the throne that God sits on. All divine beings have submitted to the Lordship of God. God's power allows humans and creation to have strength, peace and blessing.

Psalm 29 is a call for all people and all of creation to surrender their own abilities, power, and glory to the voice of the Lord. We can trust the voice of God because the same voice that hovered over creation, spoke to Moses in the burning bush, and called Jesus out of the waters of baptism speaks to us now in the midst of our own storms and trials.



# Exploring the Text

## Read Psalm 29

*<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you 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 his holiness. <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. <sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. <sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. <sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning. <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh. <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" <sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever. <sup>11</sup> The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

## Questions

*If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.*

- 1) Have you ever been caught in a bad storm? What happened?
- 2) Why do you think David uses the phrase "the voice of the Lord" so often? What is the significance of that?
- 3) Have you found an effective way in your daily life to hear from God?
- 4) Have you ever heard what you would consider to be "the voice of God?" If so, what was this experience like?
- 5) What does it look like to give "glory" to God? Is this different than worship or praise of God?
- 6) This psalm asserts very clearly that God is over all things and is in control. Do you find it difficult or easy to trust that God is in control? Why or why not?
- 7) Psalm 29 says that God is enthroned over all of creation and that God is king. As you think about your own life, are there things that compete to be on the throne? Are there people or hopes or jobs or...that you are tempted to put on the throne instead of God?
- 8) The psalm ends with, "The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace." Where in your life do you need the Lords' strength or peace?

