

The Flames of Fire

Psalms Twenty-Nine and Thirty

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~ Our Spiritual Safari will encounter a highly unusual desert storm as our camel train continues to cross the burning sands of Psalms. This is a fierce and potentially devastating storm, descending from Lebanon into northern Israel — and threatens to destroy the oasis we discovered in our previous several reports. However, with King David writing our manifesto, and the Holy Spirit leading our way — and because God is so wonderful — we have nothing to fear — except Him. Do you sincerely place reverential trust in Christ, even as the sky darkens, thunder cracks, lightning crashes, and the gloom of terror in the tempest becomes an unescapable killer? Are you confident that, when that time comes, you will be filled with God's peace that surpasses all understanding? We're going to that place in this report.

Several years ago, in the summer of two thousand four, to be precise, three major hurricanes crossed the state of Florida where I live; hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne. Entire neighborhoods were destroyed; infrastructure was devastated, and the storms caused over thirty-one *BILLION* dollars of damage. More than three thousand people were confirmed dead as a direct result of those storms. I stayed in my home during those storms — which was probably a very dumb thing to do, as I look back on those days — but I did; and while everything around me was literally blown to pieces, my home sustained exactly no damage whatsoever with the exception of losing power for several weeks. I was writing the first reports written in the Spiritual Safari at that time — from the Book of Hebrews. Well, Psalm twenty-nine is a Psalm for just such a storm.

This is not the first nature Psalm we have rolled across in this expedition in the Book of Psalms on our journey through the entire Word of God; in Psalm eight, the Heavens and the moon and stars were merely the work of the fingers of God. That means God created this universe without even half trying. It was like picking up a pencil for God to create this universe. Psalm eight was an evening Psalm, and that report was written on a beautiful

clear night. Then, Psalm nineteen was also a nature Psalm, and the Heavens declared the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork. We saw the sun like a bridegroom; and traversed that daytime Psalm at high noon.

There is a structure, a setting, and a subject for every Psalm. This is, actually, the highest order of Hebrew poetry in the Bible. There is symmetry in this particular Psalm, of which there is no greater a perfect specimen. Someone has entitled this Psalm the Psalm of seven thunders! The voice of the Lord is heard seven times. Now, Hebrew poetry is not attained by rhymes, as modern-day poetry with words that sound similar is imagined. Hebrew poetry is comprised of parallelism; which means repeating the same idea in different ways that serve to amplify and enlarge a subject. With that in mind, we can envisage the sweeping storm that moves this Psalm in lilting triumph and glorious abandon; encouraging exaltation of the Lord God Almighty....

XXOX ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

5 The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

7 The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire.

8 The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.

10 The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.

11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

~ Quite frankly, this Psalm should lift our thoughts to the highest level of spiritual contemplation we can attain. The storms will naturally appear on the horizon of our lives — lashing, destroying, and battering — but Jehovah is in control of them! The hurricanes of circumstance break forth upon us, too; but God commands all things. Christ rules, protects, and overrules in the lives of God's children in this present evil world. His control is established in His voice, and His voice is mentioned seven times in this Psalm.

David was an outdoor man; rugged — a man of war who never got too comfortable sitting on the throne in a palace. I don't think David was outdoors here, though. In fact, I believe this is where the Ark of the Lord had been brought up from Kirjath-jearim, and had been placed in the tent in Jerusalem; and I feel David was thinking about the Ark outside, as he sat in his cedar palace. This was likely written on the same night David conceived to build the temple. I believe David heard the voice of the Lord in the torrential waters pouring down outside at this time. David heard Jehovah speak His powerful glory in thunder that sounded like a cannon. This was not an ordinary storm; this was a deadly, awe-inspiring, and majestic killer — like the Florida hurricanes were!

Well, just as the Israelites in verse nine went to the temple, many people in Florida went to church who hadn't attended a service for a very long time; and many turned back to call upon the Name of the Lord their God as a

result of the hurricanes' destruction. Many people realized it was God who gives us peace during the storm. Candidly, most had nowhere else to turn. God works that way many times. These types of storms are the only way we can ever know what true peace is — afterward.

This is another prophetic Psalm that looks ahead — for the nation Israel — to the Great Tribulation period; and how God will lead them through that time of testing and turmoil. Armageddon is coming, friends; and the enemy comes from the north to completely cover the land. Today, you and I do not belong to the old creation; we belong to a new creation — the last Adam — and if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new in Christ Jesus. That's why we don't observe a Sabbath Day any longer — because that belongs to the *old* creation. The Sabbath Day was never changed, though — *WE* have been changed; and joined to a living Christ. The first day of the week is the day of resurrection. Adam was given dominion over creation, but Adam lost it at the fall — and Christ has now recovered it — giving us our pattern for the message of the Gospel. This is an illustrious illustration.

The storms we encounter are spiritual storms, and sometimes they threaten to obliterate us. If you are God's child, then you have been through one of those storms. Some of us are in a storm right now as I type this report and you read it. Well, Christ sees us toiling and rowing across our own Sea of Galilee, and Jesus comes to us walking across the water. When we cry out, "... *don't you care if we die, Lord?*" He quiets the storm. Actually, He doesn't always still the waves, but we always make it to the other side with Him. That's important to realize. If the Lord Jesus didn't stand by us, we would absolutely give up hope and lose our minds jumping overboard. If you're going through a storm, you can depend on the Lord Jesus to see you through; and you can know very definitely the storm will end someday....

XXX ~ (A Psalm and Song at the dedication of the house of David)

1 I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.

2 O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

3 O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

7 LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

8 I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.

9 What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?

10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.

11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with a Psalm of praise and worship! As we have learned, there is an order to these Psalms with multi-Psalm clusters belonging together. This is where “*rightly dividing*” the Scriptures begins. After the storm is over, we can sing praises of dedication unto the Lord. Most fundamental conservative scholars agree this Psalm was written when David dedicated the threshingfloor of Ornan; which he had purchased from Araunah as a place for the Temple Mount. Remember, the Lord told David that David was not going to be permitted to build a temple – but God was going to build David a house. Well, even today, the Jewish children have a ritual at the feast of Hanukkah — the

Feast of Dedication — that refers to first Maccabeas four fifty two – and this Psalm is ALWAYS read. Selah ~

Now, many people believe David had been sick — much like Hezekiah had been ill — and God had miraculously healed David. I tend to agree with that, but we have no record of the particular incident; except verse two says. “.... *Thou hast healed me.*” That’s about all the detail we are given; but it’s enough to clearly understand. See, David isn’t remembering God’s love or His goodness now; David is remembering God’s *H-O-L-I-N-E-S-S* – see verse four. God is a *Holy* God – first and foremost. Whatever God does is right – period. We ought to be able to thank Him for that.

Even in God’s anger and judgment, He is holy, righteous, just, and He is always correct. God has literally taken me to the woodshed in my Christian life for a whipping like I never dreamed I would get, friends. I would love to tell you all about that sometime when we have time. It’s never easy to accept “*whom the Lord loveth He chastens;*” but that’s a truth that never changes — and simply isn’t taught today — not ever. I *NEVER* hear anything even remotely close to that truth in *ANY* sermon, Bible teaching, Sunday school lesson, or other religiously-oriented commentary – just – not – ever. Well, let me be the one to tell you the truth: whom the Lord loveth He chastens. And, even so....

12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever ~

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