

Psalms 28-30

Psalms 29:3,4 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is over many waters. The voice of the lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Psalms 28 and 30 are both the stories of prayer. Every prayer has its story.

Psalms 28: In this psalm, verses 1-5 describe the prayer and the waiting, verses 6-9 celebrate God's answer. The psalm begins in a state of tension, will God answer? Will He respond or will He be silent? David seeks to distinguish himself from those who deserve no answer. In contrast to them, God ought to respond to his cry.

Then David blesses God on the occasion of the answer to his prayer. The answer is a vindication. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped..." David then generalizes as he concludes that God is just as ready to help all of His people.

Psalms 30: This psalm begins with the celebration of prayer already answered. It then goes back and rehearses the story of the circumstances of the prayer and how God worked to turn weeping into joy,

mourning into dancing, and sackcloth into the clothing of gladness.

David truly felt that his life was threatened, so much so that he felt as if he were already dead. But he cried out to the Lord and he was healed, his soul was brought back from the grave. David learned that "His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning." At one point, David had felt that God was hiding from him and he was very troubled by this but he argued, "What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth? And God answered and so David concludes, "O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever."

Psalms 29: Like the 30th Psalm, Psalms 29 begins with its conclusion. God is worthy of praise. It is His due. "Give unto the Lord the glory due His name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

The occasion of this worship is a storm. In the storm, the voice of God is heard in thunder and lightning and in a violent display that shakes the earth, splits trees, causes deer to give birth, and strips the forests bare.

The heavenly witnesses of this event utter a single word, "Glory!"

Two Biblical events come to mind, The flood and the display of thunder and lightning and earthquake at the giving of the Ten Commandments. David thought of the flood. "The lord sat enthroned at the flood and the Lord sits as King forever." In either case the power and majesty of God was on display for all to hear.

Everyone can identify with this Psalm. We have all been through thunder storms. A similar sense is obtained when witnessing the crashing of angry ocean waves against the shore. The storm puts the power and strength of God front and center for all to see.

Consider this thought. God is in the storm. In the midst of the storm God's voice is heard. Is this not just as true in the storms of our lives? Storms indicate the activity of God. His voice is loud. It echos. It crashes. It is a combination of terror and majesty. Do not act as if God is not there for everyone knows He is. The thunderous voice may be a word to you or you may need to wait for the still small voice that follows.