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Glory to the God of Glory; Psalm 29
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Introduction – David uses the word glory in two ways. One use speaks to the nature of God, He is glory, as v3 states. Glory is descriptive of His being. There is a glory, a renown, a royalty, an incomprehensible greatness that exists in God and because of God and surrounds God. God is the supreme, ultimate, eternal Being who is and who displays absolute perfection in all of His attributes. His nature and His presence are absolute goodness and sovereign power. He is Perfection of perfection. Beauty of beauty. Light of light. Almighty of might. He is altogether glorious.

There is also the glory that we give to God, ascribe to God, and this glory has nothing to do with His nature. We do not add anything to the glory of God in terms of His essence, but at the same time, we do give glory to God. This glory that we give to God is in response to who He is and all that He has done for us in Christ. This glory is worship - v2. To glorify God means to acknowledge in word, deed, and life that God is supremely glorious, supremely worthy, supremely good, terrifyingly and wonderfully awesome. Glory to God is the result and response to the glory of God.

That is the major theme of Psalm 29, and that is the major purpose of all creation, and that is the ultimate joy, experience, and existence for every child of God. There is no greater fulfilling and satisfying call we will ever know than to glorify God.

I. A Call to Glorify the Lord (vv1-2)

A. VV1-2 divide this call to glorify the Lord into 3 categories we could state as questions. First would be “Who is to glorify the Lord?” V1 says, “O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.” “Heavenly beings” can be translated as “sons of God” or “sons of might.” The idea is for every being, both in the heavens and on the earth who possess a kind power or authority. In the heavens, we might think of the angels and on earth, we might think of kings, rulers, governing authorities, or those who wield an amount of political or economic authority. Those who are powerful in some way are in that sense sons of God or sons of might.

1. Every being who possesses some kind of authority should acknowledge the source of their glory or strength as coming from the Lord, granted to them by God for His purpose.
 - a) Daniel 4:28-34, 36-37
 2. For David to call on the most powerful of heaven and earth to give God glory, by implication, it is a call for everyone to give God glory. He calls on those who are the least likely to attribute all glory and strength to God as a way of saying everyone should ascribe glory and strength to God. We'll see later in the text that is where David is going with this.
- B. Second, "How do we ascribe glory to the Lord?" V2 says, "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name." Now, in one sense, we will never be able to do that. Think about it. How can we possibly ascribe the full measure of glory that is DUE His name? That, in fact, is what eternity is about - our joyful pursuit of giving Him the glory that is due His name, and an eternity will be proof that this joyful pursuit is never-ending, never able to reach completion. That's what eternal worship looks like - never quite able to give Him the glory due His name, but ever joyfully in pursuit of doing so.
1. In another sense, however, we are capable, we do have the capacity, of giving Him the glory that is due His name in these two ways.
 - (1) Giving Him thanks for every grace He has given us. Daily bread and heavenly Bread. That's one way we give Him the glory that is due Him. We praise Him for His excellent and good gifts to us in Christ.
 - (2) Praising Him for being so good and generous to us in Christ. Not only what He gives us, but that He gives to us!
- C. Third, "Is there more to this than just words?" V2b says, "worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness." That simply means that behind the words of thanksgiving and praise are hearts with a certain posture towards God and lives with a certain reflection of God. An awe-filled awareness of the greatness of God, a deep understanding of our sin before God, and a grasping of God's grace to us in Christ produce a certain posture of heart and course of life that is holy. Changed hearts and changed lives are a splendor of God's marvelous grace.
- D. Now all of this means God is glorified by His own work in our lives. He changes our hearts and our lives, and we in turn give Him glory!

II. A View of the Glory of the Lord (vv3-9)

- A. First, I want us to see in these verses how the display of the glory of God produces glory to God - read text. You begin with “the God of glory thunders” and you end with “in His temple all cry, ‘Glory!’”
- B. Let’s go back and take in the view of the glory of the Lord in these verses. David is setting before us the power and strength of the Lord as illustrated in the severe thunderstorm at sea and the frightening tornado-like winds on land.
 1. VV3-4 describe this thunderstorm at sea. The loud, crashing, clapping of thunder literally rattles the heavens above. ill. rolling thunder
 - a) As the thunder peels above, there is an element of mystery, it is high above us, the volume can be deafening, it comes upon us beyond our control - it is illustrative of the awesome, sovereign, power of God.
 - b) At sea, the thunder shakes the heavens above, the winds stir the waters below, and it seems as if everything above your head and beneath your feet is churning. A thunderstorm at sea can be a most frightening experience as the sky and the sea foment in a great demonstration of man-humbling power. You don’t stop the thunderstorm at sea, you just do all you can to avoid it. You know you can’t stop it, control it, or direct it, and you may be consumed by it. David says, “It’s like the voice of the Lord.”
 2. David says there’s another storm that reminds him of the glory of the Lord - the fierce, raging winds of a tornado. vv5a,9a
 - a) TORNADOS are ranked according to width, wind speed, and destruction on the EF scale from 1 to 5. A category 1 tornado can have wind speeds up to 40 mph, it’s usually about 32-164ft in diameter, and can break limbs off of trees - a EF5 category can have wind speeds of over 200mph, it’s usually at least 3/4 mile in diameter, and it can disintegrate houses and leaves catastrophic damage.
 - b) Sometimes the F5 tornado is referred to as the finger of God. Whoever made that analogy must have read Psalm 29 because they captured the essence perfectly. The F5, with its incredible display of raw power and strength is just a finger, just a finger, when it comes to comparison with God.
- C. If you are in the middle of a thunderstorm at sea or a violent tornado, you become instantly aware of power beyond your control and beyond your imagination, you become aware that you are not

sovereign and in control, you become aware that your life is not really in your hands - you become aware of forces far beyond you.

D. David says, "That's just what it's like to be in the presence of God. The thunderstorms and the tornado are like the voice of the Lord."

E. You get in front of that kind of awesome, sovereign, massive display of power and strength in the presence of God, and all you can really say is, "Glory!" The display of the glory of God produces glory to God!

III. His Glory and His People (vv10-11)

A. This is what we've learned so far. One way we glorify the Lord is by acknowledging that all of our strength is from Him. He gives us the strength to believe, the strength to persevere in the faith, the strength to stand for truth, the strength to go on.

B. What kind of strength, power, and glory does the Lord possess? David says, look at the frightening display of raw power in the thunderstorm at sea and fierce tornado-like winds, that's the glory of God.

C. Ok, ok, here it is now. Are you ready? This is the application of today's sermon. It's right there written out for us in vv10-11.

1. For whatever reason you need strength today, strength to keep the faith, strength to defeat sin, strength to be gracious and kind and loving. God gives strength to His people, and if you are wondering what kind of strength God has to give, look at vv3-9.

2. The point is simply this: The God of glory is sufficient to supply whatever kind or amount of strength you need today! When life drains you dry, and you come to Him for strength, He supplies strength as great as a fierce thunderstorm. And in the strength that God supplies, you will know peace that surpasses all understanding. Just like those folks in the temple in v9, when God meets our weakness with His unfailing strength, we too will cry, "Glory!"