

There is no doubt about the fact that God reveals Himself to be the God who is in sovereign control of everything. We may cite just a few examples of this.

In **Genesis 14:19**, God says that He is the Most High God who is possessor of heaven and earth.

In **Deuteronomy 10:14-17**, God says that He is an awesome God who owns the heavens and earth and all things in it.

In **Psalms 135:5-6**, God says that He is a great God above everything and He does whatever He pleases.

In **Jeremiah 18:6**, God reveals that He is the potter and people are the clay.

These are just a few of many passages that reveal God is a sovereign God.

Now if one is to worship God properly and praise God properly, God demands that people acknowledge this truth. Never is that point more clear than when we come to Psalm 29.

Someone said when the moon and the stars are bright, read Psalm 8. When the sun shines bright, read Psalm 19. When the thunder roars and lightning flashes, read Psalm 29.

Psalm 29 is a psalm of David. We have been seeing that in the psalms, David has been praying for God to deliver him. David was surrounded by enemies who were hostile and hateful against David. **There were times when David certainly did doubt himself, but never did he doubt the sovereignty of God.**

In fact, it was his perspective of the sovereign power and majesty of God that led him to the conclusion that he could pray to a powerful God who was capable of doing anything He wanted to do. Now David spent a great deal of time in the outdoors and in the mountains. As he moved through the mountains, he had witnessed many powerful thunderstorms. When a storm hit, his mind immediately thought about God and His power and His sovereignty.

Now we may observe from **verses 1-2**, that three times David uses the verb “ascribe.” This verb is an imperative in Hebrew, which means it is a command. The verb means to give something in the sense of putting, placing or setting something before someone (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 336).

The point is this:

GOD HAS SOVEREIGN POWER, MIGHT, AND STRENGTH OVER EVERYTHING AND WE NEED TO WORSHIP HIM BECAUSE OF THIS AND REALIZE THAT HIS SOVEREIGN POWER MINISTERS TO HIS PEOPLE.

No matter what happens in our world, God demands that His people maintain a high and holy grasp of who He is and how great and mighty He is. If we are going to God in prayer, we had better have an honorable perspective of God’s power and might and strength.

I cannot help but think of the words of James, who said that when we go to God asking Him for something, we had better have faith without any doubting in God's sovereign ability, "for let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:5-7). God has the power to answer any request and He demands his people believe Him.

In the **opening verse of Psalm 29**, David addresses this psalm to the "sons of the mighty." God wants us realizing our sonship is connected to the "mighty God." He does not want His people negligent when it comes to this reality.

We are to ascribe to God the glory and honor that His name deserves. The children of Israel knew of the name of the LORD, which was Jehovah or YHWH. They knew of his strength and power and after the Egyptians had been destroyed Moses led Israel to acknowledge God's sovereign greatness (Ex. 15:1-3ff).

In Exodus 3:14-15, God gives Himself the name "I AM." This name refers to the fact that God is a sovereign God who is in sovereign control and is the sovereign cause of all things. **This name is spelled in English LORD, and you will notice that in Psalm 29 this name is used 16 times.**

No matter what is happening, God demands that His people acknowledge Him and worship Him as the glorious, Sovereign God. He demands that His people reverence Him and give glory to Him.

One of the key reasons, in this psalm, that is given for God deserving this level of worship is because of the power of the Word of God. We may observe that the words "voice of the LORD" occurs some seven times in **verses 3-9**. The voice of the LORD is synonymous with the words God speaks or the Word of God. In other words, because of the great power in the Word of God, God deserves to be worshipped and honored for His might and His power.

Now David was an outdoorsman. He was not a man who was cooped up in an office all day. He got out in nature. He lived in wilderness areas and He had seen the sovereign power of God in nature. He had come to realize that the Sovereign God of the Bible controls things in nature by His Word, and in this psalm he lists some of those things:

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #1 – God's Word controls the waters. **29:3a**

Here is where a storm begins with God commanding the waters to gather. Behind the glory of the rain is the glory of God. When it rains, don't complain but worship.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #2 – God's Word controls the thunders. **29:3b-4**

God speaks through thunderstorms. God speaks through the water He controls. His power is displayed when the thunder roars.

David had seen the dark clouds gathered by God. They became black and angry and the wind would howl and there would be the rumble of thunder. Thunder is the sovereign voice of God and as one commentator said, when you hear it, pray and worship.

Charles Spurgeon said the voice of God is a thunderous voice and there ought to be authority in God's spokesmen.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #3 – God's Word breaks the trees . **29:5**

Sometimes the "cedars of Lebanon" were used as a metaphor for those who were proud and shake their fist against God. God shakes and breaks the strong and the arrogant who defy Him (Is. 2:12-13). Notice the cedar tree is the biggest and the best and God's Word can shake it and break it. He can shake it like a dog shakes a rabbit.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #4 – God's Word controls the mountains . **29:6**

Sirion is another name for Mount Hermon (Deut. 3:8-9), which is a mountain range that is visible through most of the Promised Land. Mount Lebanon, located north of Galilee, and Mount Hermon (Sirion) were the mighty mountains located north of Canaan.

These are mighty mountain ranges which rise above the surrounding landscape some 10,000 feet above sea level. To most humans, these mountains are majestic, but to God, they are nothing more than a skipping calf and young wild ox. Majestic mountains are God's playthings. But the majesty and the power of God are seen in the mountains.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #5 – God's Word controls the lightning . **29:7**

Lightning bolts streak down from heaven and hit where God wants them to hit. They can topple the biggest trees and they can start blazing fires. All of it is controlled by God.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #6 – God's Word controls the earthshakes . **29:8**

God can shake any part of the world anytime He wants. Kadesh was located 75 miles north of Damascus. Storms would form and roll off the mountains into the valley and would literally shake it.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #7 – God's Word controls the birth of animals . **29:9a**

God produces the life of His animals. He causes animals to hold up and give birth. God can use storms to cause animals to take cover and while taking cover give birth to new animals. God can do this also in a person's life. He can use storms to bring spirituality to life.

SOVEREIGN MIGHT DISPLAY #8 – God’s Word can strip a forest bare. **29:9b**

God’s Word can take out a forest.

Now carefully notice what is said at the end of **verse 9**. No matter what God is doing on earth, everything at His Throne in heaven says, “Glory.”

In other words, all in heaven recognize God’s sovereign power and majesty in carrying out everything that happens in nature and they worship God for it.

Now David makes a series of TWO statements about God:

Statement #1 - God is King of the flood .

God is totally and completely in charge of everything no matter how ferocious the storm or judgment. Most people don’t like this about God, but this is truth about God.

Statement #2 - God is King over everything forever .

God rules over everything.

David makes two applications of this psalm to God’s people:

Application #1 - This Sovereign God who does all of these things will give strength to His people.

Application #2 - This Sovereign God who does all of these things will bless His people.

So the nature that we see is designed to reveal the sovereign power of God so we will realize just how powerful God is.

PARTING THOUGHTS FROM PSALM 29:

1. God controls all storms, including the storms of our lives.
2. God has sovereign power to strengthen us to cope with the storms.
3. God will eventually end the storms and bring tranquil peace to His people.
4. The next time you hear thunder or see lightning, stop and acknowledge how great God is.