PSALM 29
Reading Guide
July 21–27
PSALM 29

1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over 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 breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
6 He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!
DAY 1
Read through Psalm 29 once writing down what you find interesting, what you find helpful, and what you don’t fully understand.

Read through the notes on Psalm 29 in the ESV Study Bible*. Write at least one paragraph highlighting what you learned from the study notes.

Psalm 29 “is a hymn of praise to God for his awesome power.”¹

As Scholar Derek Kidner explains, “The towering majesty of the Lord dominates this poem, with the opening scene in the heaven, where supernatural beings pay Him homage; with the violent sweep of the thunderstorm in from the sea, down the whole length of Canaan and away into the desert; and the serene climax in which, as the thunder recedes, the Lord appears enthroned in judgment over His world but in blessing among His people.”²

DAY 2
Read Psalm 29 again.

In the first two verses, the heavenly beings are called on to praise and worship the Lord. Read those verses again, noting the reasons given to praise God.

In verse 9, God’s people are invited to join the heavenly beings and praise God (“in his temple all cry, ‘Glory!’”). Read through verses 2–9 again, noting the reasons we are called on to praise God.

In verses 10–11, God’s people are invited to praise him as the great king over everything in heaven and on earth. And they are invited to praise him as their king, who gently loves and cares for them. Read through verses 10–11 again, noting the reasons we are called on to praise God.

God is the king of heaven and earth. And he’s the king who cares for his people. These two ideas are captured well in Joachim Neander’s hymn, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation.”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear,
Now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen

¹ ESV Study Bible, notes on Psalm 29.
² D. Kinder, Psalms 1-72, p. 124.
How thy desires e’er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty will do,
If with his love he befriend thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.

In Revelation 5:13 we read that one day, “every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea” will join together to praise Jesus as the eternal king of heaven and earth.

Look over your list of reasons in Psalm 29 to praise God. Pick out a few that resonate with you. Consider how Jesus has shown himself worthy to receive your eternal praise for those specific reasons. Write out a prayer of praise to God the Father and God the Son using some of the reasons you’ve listed.

**DAY 3**

Read Psalm 29 again.

In verse 11, God is recognized as the one who will give strength to his people and bless his people with peace.

Think of some other things you think will give you the strength and peace that God says he will give to you. Write down those things. (For example, you may think a good balance in your bank account or a happy marriage will give you peace. Or, you may think eating right or exercise will give you the strength you need for a long, prosperous life.)

Look over your list. Ask God if you trust in those things more than you trust in him. Ask him if you give thanks to those things when you should give thanks to him. If you do, confess your sin to him and ask his forgiveness. Write out a prayer of to God, expressing your trust in him to give you the strength and peace that you need.

**DAY 4**

Read Psalm 29 again. As you read through it, list the different ways that David tells us God makes his glory known.

Pick one of those ways. Ask God to make his glory known—in that specific way—to someone you know who is not yet a follower of Jesus. Ask that God would allow that person to recognize God as the one who
deserves the praise for that specific thing. Ask God to give you an opportunity to tell that person the reasons you have found God worthy of your worship and praise.

**DAY 5**

Read through Psalm 29 twice.

Write out at least two paragraphs reflecting on what you’ve learned about God, yourself, and others from Psalm 29. Write out at least one thing you hope to apply to your life from Psalm 29.

Spend at least 15 minutes sharing what you wrote with a trusted friend or family member. If they read Psalm 29 this week, ask them to do the same. End your time in prayer, thanking God for what he taught you this week.

*Purchasing an ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Bibles, 2008.) will aid you in your understanding of the Psalms. The first day’s reading each week assumes you will have access to the notes in the ESV Study Bible. The ESV Study Bible is the most comprehensive study Bible ever published. It will help you understand not just the Psalms, but also the rest of the Bible in a deeper way. You can either buy the Bible (amazon.com, search: ESV Study Bible) or purchase online access to the notes at www.esvbible.org.

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