

Psalm 29 (NASB)

Ascribe to the LORD, O sons of the mighty,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in holy array.

The voice of the LORD is upon 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 majestic.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
Yes, the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
And Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD hews out flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
The LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the LORD makes the deer to calve
And strips the forests bare;
And in His temple everything says, "Glory!"

The LORD sat as King at the flood;
Yes, the LORD sits as King forever.
The LORD will give strength to His people;
The LORD will bless His people with peace.

This is a magnificent psalm of praise to the LORD. God's power, glory, authority, and impact on all of creation is acknowledged and praised. No one and nothing can do everything described in this psalm other than our God. Even the pagan Canaanite gods could not measure up to such an awe-filled description of the God of Israel. How, then, do the creatures respond to the Creator? We give God the glory that is due Him. We worship Him with a reverence that combines our hearts, minds, will, and emotions.

I can't imagine this psalmist whispering these words. They resound off the page like a trumpet blast reverberating the truth across the globe that the LORD is King forever! We know that He is glorious, powerful, and completely in control, and that is reassuring. Our knowledge of God's preeminence, however, is only comforting because we are assured that the most powerful of all living beings is also the most consistent, the most sustaining, and the greatest giver of blessings to His people.

We thank God that He doesn't want to fight with us. He wants to bless us with peace. Nothing can force this upon Him; it is His prerogative. If we feel compelled to praise God as this psalmist does, we should also be determined to live like the God we praise. Whatever power we have should be devoted to living righteously, practicing mercy, strengthening the weak, and blessing those around us with peace.