

Scripture: Psalm 29.

Subject: God of the Storm.

Text: Psalm 29:4 & 11 --. "The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty." "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

Proposition: God reveals himself in nature, especially in a storm, giving reassurance of his care, and concern for people and for their ultimate condition.

Dates written: August 15, 1968.

Dates and places used:

August 18, 1968 - AKRON, COLO

Oct. 17, 1971 - OAKLAND PARK, FLA.

Subject: God of the storm

Text: Psalm 29:4-11 -- "The

voice of the Lord is powerful;

the voice of the Lord is full of

majesty." The Lord will give

strength unto his people; the

Lord will bless his people with

peace.

Introduction

of reveals himself

in nature, especially in a storm,

giving reassurance of his care and

concern for people and for their

ultimate condition.

Notes written

August 12, 1953

verses and places used:

Psalm 29:4-11

Psalm 29:1-3

Psalm 29:6-7

Psalm 29:9-10

Psalm 29:11

Introduction: ~~SOME~~ ^{SOME} ~~TIMES~~ ^{TIMES}

1. ~~During the week just past~~
~~(August 11-17, 1968)~~ there were ^{ARE} many violent thunderstorms in this area, over a fairly long period of time. ~~Starting at mid-~~
~~night on Tuesday,~~ ^{MAY BE} The crack, cāap and roll of thunder was heard almost continuously for ^{MAY BE} ~~hours,~~ ^{or} ~~more.~~ Rain ^{MAY BE} ~~falls~~ ^A in torrents at times, so that the gutters ~~were~~ ^{ARE} full. ~~Some 6 to 9 inches fell on communities a few miles to the north, so that the next day from the air it looked as if better than 50% of the largest neighboring town was under water of from a few inches to 3 or 4 feet. These storms were unlike some~~ ^{STORMS} ~~however,~~ ^{HAVE} in which ^A not only lightening, thunder and great amounts of water are ~~apparent,~~ but in which also is great wind, which combined with the other elements of the storm does great damage. At ~~the~~ end of the ^{AL} storm, ~~just after sunset,~~ if you ~~were~~ ^{ARE} looking to the east of our town, you ^{OFTEN CAN} ~~could~~ see complete-arch rainbows, ^A one bright and perfect, ^{SOMETIMES WITH} and a less vivid but still-complete one ^{them,} overarching it, while to the west the reds of the

Introduction: During the week just past
(August 17-19, 1965) there were
many violent thunderstorms in
this area over a fairly long
period of time. Starting at mid-
night on Tuesday the clouds
and roll of thunder was heard at
most continuously for 48 hours or
more. Rain fell in torrents at
times so that the gutters were
full. Some 2 to 3 inches fell on
some of the few days that the
downpour was that the next day from
the air it looked as if better
than 50% of the largest raindrops
fell was under water at 1000 ft
low inches to 2 or 3 feet. These
storms were unlike some of the
in which not only lightning
thunder and great amounts of water
are present but in which also
is great wind, which combined with
the other elements of the storm
does great damage. At the end of
the storm, just after sunset, if
you were looking to the east or
our town you could see complete
also rainbows - bright and
perfect and less vivid but
still complete one over arching the
while to the west the sun of the

~~scattered sun-dyed clouds gave a fiery last salute of brightness to a day ^{which} ~~that~~ until that time had been mostly gray.~~

2. ~~Somebow or other, this stormy period~~ ^{ADD} ~~as few such days have done.~~ ^{TELLS} ~~one during the day told me that~~ ^{WHEN} "this is tornado weather," ~~and my reflections on the destructive and irresistable power of a tornado added to the feeling that there are many natural forces over which mankind has absolutely no control; that God still expresses himself in very real ways through the mighty forces of nature.~~

~~3. Then during the next morning came that time of week when the preacher must try to feel that a message has been given him by God to deliver to the people who come to the church to worship. The storm reminded me that somewhere in the Bible book of Psalms I had read something dealing with this very thing, and that maybe the storm was my inspiration. I spent several hours looking through the Bible, but finally came back~~

scattered and they should have a
The... of... to
... until...
... day.

2. Somehow or other...
story... to me of God,
... some-
one... that
this is... weather,
reflections of the destructive and
irresistible power of a tornado
led to the feeling that there are
new natural forces over which man-
kind has absolutely no control;
that God still expresses himself
in very real ways through the
mighty forces of nature.

3. After during the next morn-
ing... that time of week when the
preacher... try to feel that a
message has been given by God
to deliver to the people who come
to the church to worship...
story... me that somewhere in
the Bible... of... day
read... with this
very... and that made the
story... in
... hour... through
the Bible... but finally came back

to Psalms, and in Psalm 29, our Scripture for today, found what I believe to be the message I ~~was~~ am supposed to deliver to you today. I call it a message not because this is the traditional term used of a minister's weekly effort nor because this is about as true and effective as the average advertising "message" of the commercial world on TV or radio, but because I believe we have here a real message from God for us. It may be trite ~~xxxxxxx~~ to some, but it is vital and important.

I. The storms of nature are an illustration that "the voice of the Lord is powerful, and that the voice of the Lord is full of majesty", as our Scripture writer worded it.

1. We do not ^{usually believe} argue that God directly orders up and guides each thunder storm, or series of storms, which comes our way; or even that he is particularly aware of each. We do ^{believe} argue that he is responsible for the natural forces and material reacting together to bring about the storms. We ~~do~~ see in the storms circumstances still far be

to believe that the message I was
supposed to deliver to you to-
day. I call it a message not be-
cause this is the traditional
use of a signifier's work effort
not because this is about as true
and distinctive as the average
writing message of the commu-
cations world of TV or radio, but be-
cause I believe we have here a
real message from God to us. It
may be a text to some, to some
it is vital and important.

The storms of nature are an
illustration that the voice of the
Lord is over the world and that the
voice of the Lord is in the storm, as our
Scripture writer would say.

I do not think that God
directly orders up and makes each
thunder storm, or series of storms
which come our way; or even that
he is particularly aware of each.
He does, that he is responsible
for the natural forces and matters
reacting together to bring about
the storms. We see in the
storms circumstances still far re-

the power of mankind to duplicate or control.

If you think mankind can come to control the weather

2. You may want to point to the possibilities of atomic energy explosions as illustrations of mankind's abilities. However, one day when we were standing at the airport looking at the tops of some huge thunderstorms to the east of us, someone said, "did you know that each one of those storms has 10 times more energy in it than the most powerful atomic weapon?" Well, I hadn't known that, but in questioning people who should know since then, that seems to be true. And if that's true, a series of thunderstorms such as hit our area of the country ~~this past week~~ ^{OFTEN PROBABLY} contains more energy than the collective power of all atomic weapons of all countries ~~wouldn't you say?~~ But though ~~the~~ thunderstorms can be destructive, coupled with deadly tornadoes, ~~and~~ the carriers of damaging floods, ~~generally~~ the generators of dazzling and dangerous lightening, generally they are the carriers of needed moisture, and useful in cleaning and cooling the atmosphere.

the power of mankind to duplicate
 or control.

2. You may want to point to the
 possibilities of atomic energy
 explosions as illustrations of
 mankind's abilities. However, one
 day when we were standing at the
 airport looking at the tops of
 some huge thunderstorms to the
 east of us, someone said, "Did you
 know that each one of those storms
 has 10 times more energy in it
 than the most powerful atomic
 weapon?" Well, I hadn't known
 that, but in questioning people
 who should know since they think
 seems to be true. And it is true
 that a series of thunderstorms
 such as hit our area of the country
 this past week contains more energy
 by far than the collective power of
 all atomic weapons of all countries
 available today. ~~At 1000 ft~~
 thunder-torcs can be destructive
 coupled with deadly tornadoes.
 xxx the carrier of dawning floods
 xxxxxx the generator of dawning
 and dangerous lightning, generally
 they are the carriers of needed
 moisture and vital life giving
 and cooling the atmosphere.

3. There is something majestic about the sweep of rain and the flash of lightening, the drumming roll of thunder clashes, as ~~the~~ a thunder~~s~~storm sweeps toward you across the plains, or comes suddenly upon you ^{ACROSS THE SEAS} in the mountains. Though some people may fear it and cower before it, others see in it the reminder that God is still in control of things.

4. That is the way the Psalmist saw it. We read: " the voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters.

"The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

"The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

"He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.

"The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.

"The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness: the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.

There is something majestic
about the sweep of rain and the
flash of lightning, the drumming
roll of thunder, claps as xxx a
thunderstorm sweeps toward you
across the plains or comes and
heals upon you in the mountains.
Though some people may fear it
and cover before it, others see
it the reminder that God is still
in control of things.

That is the way the Psalm-
ist saw it. The voice of the
voice of the Lord is upon the
waters, the God of glory, thunder-
eth: the Lord is upon many
waters.
The voice of the Lord is pow-
erful, the voice of the Lord is
full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaketh
the cedars, yea, the Lord breaketh
the cedars of Lebanon.
The mountains then also to skip
like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion
like a young unicorn.
The voice of the Lord divideth
the flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shaketh
the wilderness: the Lord shaketh
the wilderness of Kadesh.

"The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests; and in his temple doeth every one speak of his glory"

And if some of this 17th century King James English confuses you, the Revised Standard version has that last verse say: "The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forests bare: and in his temple all cry 'Glory'."

5. If you see God in the storm, as many people have, you are fortunate, for this is an indication that you have the mood and spirit of more than just a person who is living out his days in the materialistic race that engulfs most of us. It indicates that you are finding meaning and intrigue and pleasure and beauty in life. Not for everyone can the storm speak of God, and for ~~such people~~ many such people nature in any form has no message at all; but those who can see the Lord of the Universe speaking in the storm are indeed fortunate.

The voice of the Lord maketh
the hills to quake, and discover-
eth the forests, and in his tempo-
rality every one speaketh of his glory.

And in some of his 17th cen-
tury King James English con-
fusions, the visual standard version
has that last verse say: "The
voice of the Lord maketh the oaks
to wither, and strikes the forests
down: and in his temple every
one shall say."

2. If you are led in the story
as many people have, you are fol-
lowing, for this is an indication
that you have the word and spirit
of more than just a person who is
living out his days in the story.
I think that should be most of
us. It indicates that you are
finding meaning and purpose and
treasure and beauty in life. Not
for everyone can the storm speak
of God, and for ~~knowing~~ many
such people nature in any form
has no message at all; but those
who can see the Lord of the
universe speaking in the storm are
indeed fortunate.

6. A poet, John Kendrick
 Bangs (1862-1922) well expressed
 the two reactions which are pos-
 sible to natural things in his
 poem "Blind":

"Show me your God!" the doubter
 cries.

I point him to the ~~smiling~~ ^{smiling} skies;
 I show him all the woodland greens;
 I show him peaceful sylvan scenes;
 I show him winter snows and frost;
 I show him waters tempest-tossed;
 I show him hills rock-ribbed and
 strong;
 I ~~show~~ ^{bid} him hear the thrush's song;
 I show him flowers in the close--
 The lily, violet and rose;
 I show him rivers, babbling
 streams;
 I show him youthful hopes and
 dreams;
 I show him maids with eager hearts;
 I show him toilers in the marts;
 I show him stars, the moon, the
 sun;
 I show him deeds of kindness done;
 I show him joy: I show him care.
 And still he holds his doubting
 air,
 And faithless goes his way, for
 he
 Is blind of soul and cannot see

... A poet, John Kendrick
Bancroft (1892-1922) well expressed
the two reactions which are pos-
sible to natural things in his
poem "Whitethorn".

"Shows your gold" the brighter

...
I show him all the wood and green
I show him peaceful evening scenes
I show him winter snows and frost
I show him waters tempest-tossed
I show him hills rock-ribbed and
...
I show him war the thorn's song
I show him flowers in the close--
The lily, violet and rose,
I show him rivers babbling
...
I show him youthful hopes and
...
I show him raids with eager hearts
I show him rollers in the mists
I show him stars, the moon, the
sun;
I show him deeds of kindness done;
I show him love; I show him care
And still he holds his bounding
...
And faithless goes his way, for

Psalm 29

Many can see, however, and for them the voice of God is powerful and full of majesty, as the storm-inspired writer of Psalm 29 so well said.

II. As God reveals himself in the storm, or elsewhere in nature or in life, he gives reassurance of his care ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and concern for people and their ultimate condition.

1. The Psalmist said it well, when he wrote, "The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

2. But, you say, how can we believe such a thing when the threat of ultimate destruction of mankind hangs over our heads, in the form of atomic weaponry? How can we say this, when people can't get along with each other, personally or at the national levels? How can we say this when many people are the innocent victim of wars they want no part of? How can we say this when people are the victims of environments they did not have anything to do with making and

any can see, however, and for the
the voice of God is powerful and
full of majesty, as the storm-
inspired writer of Psalm 29 so
well said.

III. As God reveals himself in
the storm, of elsewhere in nature
or in life, he gives reassurance
of his carexxxxxxx and concern
for people and their ultimate
condition.

The Psalmist said it well,
when he wrote, "The Lord will
give strength to his people;
the Lord will bless his people
with peace."

But, you say, how can we
believe such a thing when the
threat of ultimate destruction of
mankind hangs over our heads in
the form of atomic weapons? How
can we say this when people can't
get along with each other, person-
ally or at the national level?
How can we say this when many peo-
ple are the innocent victims of war
they want to put off? How can we
say this when people are the vic-
tims of environments they do not
have any part in creating?

would leave if they could? So many people are the victims of so many horrible circumstances not of their own making that it is hard to think of God as giving strength or leading toward peace, sometimes.

3. There is much truth to such thinking. Yet, for one thing, it may well be chiefly a materialistic type thought. There are things of more value than good houses, balanced diets, the absence of war, or even the continuation of physical life. When our church leaders in ~~so many high places~~ get more concerned about the preservation of life at any cost than about the ~~spiritual and moral standards of those who~~ spiritual and moral standards of those who may survive, when we deemphasize our belief in this life as ~~but~~ a preparation place for eternity, I sometimes get a bit impatient. We all want a good life now, but this life is really very fleeting, and we better have some real faith and hope in another after it, or there isn't much meaning now.

4. A faith in an eternal God, who has eternal purpose for each life, gives meaning to people, no

matter what the conditions of their lives. Some of the most favored people we can think of as far as wealth and position go, have been unhappy and found life meaningless. ^{we have decided that} so things and power do not make for meaning and happiness in life. To provide better housing, education, social equality and all the rest is important, I believe, but ~~not~~ the most important thing in this life. The most important is to know the one universal, eternal God.

5. You can know him. Those who believe in him, ~~can~~ through the storms of life, whether the thunderstorm or the personal disasters, ^{can} see God speaking. They can find, as did the Psalmist, that "the Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace."

6. Such was the faith of the early Christian martyrs, and of all who have died rather than turn from their faith since. Such was the experience of Jesus, who had no home, no wife and children, and few friends in his period of trou-

matter what the conditions of the
times, some of the most favored
people we can think of as far as
health and position of have been
unhappy and found life meaningless
so things and power do not make
for meaning and happiness in life.
To provide better housing, educa-
tion, social security and all the
rest is important. I believe, but
not the most important thing in
this life. The most important is
to know the one universal, eternal

2. You can know him. Those
who believe in him, even through the
storms of life, whether the things
be storms or the personal disasters
see God speaking. They can find
as did the scientist, that "the
Lord will give strength unto his
people. The Lord will bless his
people with peace."

3. Such was the faith of the
early Christian martyrs and of
all who have died rather than turn
from their faith since. Such was
the experience of Jesus who had
no home, no wife and children, no
few friends in his period of trou-

Wolfs Head

ble. ~~But~~ The God of the storm
 is still the all-powerful and only
 God, who is with those people who
 look to him and trust him.

Conclusion:

1. Another poet, also a story-
 teller and a great Christian lay-
 man, William L. Stidger, said in
 simple rhyme what we're trying to
 say:

I saw God wash the world last night
 With his sweet showers on high,
 And then, when morning came, I saw
 Him hang it out to dry.

He washed each tiny blade of grass
 And every trembling tree;
 He flung his showers against the
 hill,
 And swept the billowing sea.

The white rose is a cleaner white,
 The red rose is more red,
 Since God washed every fragrant
 face
 And put them all to bed.

There's not a bird, there's not
 a bee
 That wings along the way
 But is a cleaner bird and bee

...at the God of the storm
is still the all-powerful and only
God who is with those people who
look to him and trust him.

Conclusion

Another poet, also a story-
teller and a great Christian law-
yer, William L. Wagner, said in
essays that we're trying to
say:

I saw God when the world last night
with his sweet showers of night,
and then, when morning came, I saw
him hand it out to day.

He handed each tiny blade of grass
and every twinkling tree;
he hung his showers against the
hill.

And every the billowing sea

The white rose is a cleaner white
The red rose is more red,
since God saved every fragment
of a rose.

Put out them all to bed,

There's not a bird, there's not

That rises along the way

Than it was yesterday.

I ^{saw} ~~saw~~ God wash the world last night
 Ah, would He had washed me
 As clean of all my dust and dirt
 As that old white birch tree.

2. That is our sermon, ~~I guess~~
 inspired by ~~this past week's~~ storms.

^{sometimes} "God does reveal himself in nature,
 especially in a storm, giving re-
 assurance of his care and concern
 for ~~people and their ultimate~~
~~destiny.~~" you and son me
 and son our ultimate destiny

That it was yesterday.

I saw God wash the world last night
And would he had washed me
As clean of all my past and dirt
As that old white birch tree

That is our sermon. It was
fringed by this poet's story
That does reveal himself in nature
especially in a storm. Giving us
assurance of his care and concern
for people and their attitude
towards him.