

Worship the Lord

Chuck Brooks, Senior Pastor, GraceWay Church

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Psalm 29 is actually a hymn. It is a hymn of David that ascribes glory to the omnipotent Lord (vv. 1-2) who controls and reveals Himself in nature (vv. 3-9) and blesses His people with strength and peace (vv. 10-11). The name LORD (Yahweh) occurs 18 times in this brief psalm.

Many of its images (thunder, wind, lightening, and fire) were used by the heathen of the time to refer to their gods by these various “forces of nature.” People of pagan nations, who served worshipped idols and false deities, credited their false gods with the "forces of nature" or attributes that belonged only to the true God.

- Poseidon/Neptune - God of the Sea
- Apollo/Sol/Pheobus - God of Sun
- Aeolus --- King of Winds
- Vulcan/ Hephaestus - God of the Fire/Forge

You would think that in our of era hi-tech information technology that men and women would behave differently, but we call weather systems *El Niño* and *La Niña* and assign names like “Katrina” and “Bill” to hurricanes and give them humanlike characteristics.

Some weather reporters act like they are responsible for the weather and some of us who watch these guys and gals on TV must think these folk have power over the weather because you fuss at them when the weather is bad and praise them when the weather is good.

Some of us might remember back in the sixties and seventies that whenever NASA sent a rocket up into space, any bad weather would be blamed on the astronauts.

Today, many have attributed the changing weather patterns to what they call, “global warming” and have said that “man is responsible” because of his “carbon emissions.”

Psalm 29 tells us that the Lord is Creator. God is the *supreme* Sovereign over the weather patterns and that we would like to attribute to nature, NASA’s rockets, the weatherman and ourselves.

Throughout the Bible we find God controlling the weather—in some places He makes weather to care for His creation and in other places He makes weather to judge His creation.

In the book of Job we find the Bible declaring that the weather is God’s doing:

Job 36:24 "Remember to magnify His work, Of which men have sung.

Job 36:25 Everyone has seen it; Man looks on it from afar.

Job 36:26 "Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; Nor can the number of His years be discovered.

Job 36:27 For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the mist,

Job 36:28 Which the clouds drop down And pour abundantly on man.

Job 36:29 Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, The thunder from His canopy?

Job 36:30 Look, He scatters his light upon it, And covers the depths of the sea.

Job 36:31 For by these He judges the peoples; He gives food in abundance.

Job 36:32 He covers His hands with lightning, And commands it to strike.

Job 36:33 His thunder declares it, The cattle also, concerning the rising storm.
Job 37:1 "At this also my heart trembles, And leaps from its place.
Job 37:2 Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that comes from His mouth.
Job 37:3 He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth.
Job 37:4 After it a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, And He does not restrain them when His voice is heard.
Job 37:5 God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.
Job 37:6 For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth'; Likewise to the gentle rain and the heavy rain of His strength.
Job 37:7 He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work.
Job 37:8 The beasts go into dens, And remain in their lairs.
Job 37:9 From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, And cold from the scattering winds of the north.
Job 37:10 By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen.
Job 37:11 Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds.
Job 37:12 And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth.
Job 37:13 He causes it to come, Whether for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.
Job 37:14 "Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

Why are we looking at Psalm 29? It is because we need to be reminded that it is God who is sovereign—it is God who made the heavens and the earth—it is God who is King of kings and Lord of lords!

Mankind has really gotten arrogant. In the United States we have evicted God from our school systems— young people cannot even talk about God without getting into some kind of trouble. It won't be too long before they strip "In God We Trust" from our currency.

In 1985 a song was written that had the following words:

*We are the world, we are the children
 We are the ones who make a brighter day
 So let's start giving
 There's a choice we're making
 We're saving our own lives
 it's true we'll make a better day
 Just you and me*

In these days of "I can do it myself-ism," it would do us good to get a dose of Psalm 29. People need to be reminded that God is indeed supreme. There are those that need to know that He is indeed in charge.

The deist says, "God may have had something to do with creating this place, but He is gone now and left us to tend to things."

The new-ager says, "God is in all and is all; you are god and I am god. The tree is god and the rock is god—there is no personal God who is Creator and controls the weather; we are all God."

David the psalmist, who wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, saw things differently. In Psalm 29, David writes of the Lord's supremacy over His creation and calls for us to give God the praise that is due Him.

Here is our outline:

- A. *Call to praise*: The psalmist calls upon the mighty ones of the earth to glorify the Lord (vs. 1-2)
- B. *Cause for praise*: The psalmist describes God's omnipotent control of nature in a terrifying storm (vs. 3-9)
- C. *Conveyance of peace*: The psalmist concludes that God sits as King forever and desires to give strength and peace to His people (vs. 10-11)

A. *Call to praise*: The psalmist calls upon the mighty ones of the earth to glorify the Lord

This Psalm is relevant even in our highly technological day where men, women, boys and girls worship nature and technology and ascribe to these things the glory that is due only to God.

David starts out by imploring people to "*Give unto the Lord...*"

(Psalm 29:1 NKJV) Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

The expression, "mighty ones" or "sons of the mighty" comes from a Hebrew word that is used in Scripture to describe both God's mighty angels (Psalm 89:6).

It is also used to refer to the mighty men of the earth and we find this usage in Genesis 6:4 which says, "*There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*"

Given the context, I would hold that the "mighty ones" referred to in Psalm 29 are actually the mighty men of heathen nations who do not give God the glory for the things He has done. So David calls forth to them, saying, "*Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.*"

All too often we hear the statesmen and politicians talking about God while running for office. They speak in churches and other religious sprinkling verses of Scripture throughout their presentation but once they get elected you rarely, if ever, hear them mentioning God unless they are trying to court our votes again.

Psalm 29 is a call to our legislators and other influencers of the land to "*Give unto the Lord...*" because they haven't been giving, they've been taking away.

It was the "mighty ones" of our nation who orchestrated the removal of the Ten Commandments from our schools along with references to anything "Christian."

It was the "mighty ones" of our day who legislate the killing of babies by abortion in rejection of the truth that says, "*The earth is the Lord's...*" The "mighty ones" of our day find it more important to save a "baby seal" than to save a baby human who is created in the image of God.

But the psalmist writes, *Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.*

In other words, the psalmist is calling for the heads of the earth to give credit where credit is due. He is calling on those who don't believe to recognize that it is God who has done great things!

David continues his hymn with verse two:

(Psalm 29:2 NKJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

David wants the inhabitants of the earth to recognize the fact that God has lived up to His *name*.

Not too long after I Debbie and I got married she confronted me on a bad habit I had. I have a hard time remembering people's names, so I would refer to someone whose name I couldn't remember as, "*What's his face?*"

In the Hebrew culture a person's *name* was very important. The Israelite would associate a person's personality and character with their name. Thus when the Scripture speaks of the "name" of God it is communicating that the Name of God is a personal disclosure of who He is and what He does. The name of God reveals His relationship with His people.

To the Hebrew mind, God was: hidden *and* revealed, closed-off *and* open, far away *and* near. And even though He was mysterious, high and lifted up, and unapproachable, He bridged the gap with humankind and drew His creation to Himself by revealing His Name.

In the Old Testament we find that God called and chose the children of Israel out from all the other nations of the earth to be His own special people.

God made promises to them that said that if they were obedient, there was nothing good that He would withhold from them. However, if they were disobedient, He would have to judge them. These promises which God made to His people were called "covenants."

As God made covenants with His people, He shared with them His Name. The covenant name for God was "*Yahweh*." It was in this Name that God disclosed or revealed Himself to His people Israel.

In the English Bible the name "*Yahweh*" is translated as "*Jehovah*." Throughout the Old Testament we find self-disclosures of God to this people and even today the Name of God continues to be a source of encouragement to His people. The following are some examples:

- ***Jehovah-Jireh*** "The Lord will Provide" (Gen. 22:14). This was the name given to the location where God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his son Isaac. As Abraham was about to bring his knife down to sacrifice his only son, God called out to him and "*Don't do it—Now I know that you fear me.*" This name *Jehovah-Jireh* is a testimony to God's deliverance.

Some of us know God as our Provider! God came to your rescue and met your need right in the nick of time. Someone said, "*He may not be there when you want Him but He's always right on time!*" Another has said, "*God is rarely early but never late!*"

- ***Jehovah-Nissi*** "The Lord is my Banner" (Ex. 17:15). Moses ascribed this name to God after a victory over the Amalekites. The name of God was considered a banner under which Israel could rally for victory. The Lord's name was the battle cry.

Did you know that God has promised to fight your battles? When you battle against sin and evil, the Lord's name should be your battle cry. When David battled the Philistine giant he said in 1

Samuel 17:45, *“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.”*

- **Jehovah-Mekaddesh** "The Lord Sanctifies" (Ex. 31:13). God Himself is holy and calls for a people who are set apart. (1 Peter 1:15).

While He did not take us out of the world, He set us apart from the world and calls us to live a life of victory over sin. We are to be “children of light”—no longer under the bondage and condemnation of sin. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...”* (John 17:15; Romans 8:1; Eph 5:8)

- **Jehovah-Shalom** "The Lord is Peace" (Judges 6:24). This was the name of the altar that Gideon built at Ophrah signifying that God brings well-being not death to His people.

Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

Philippians 4:6-7 – *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

- **Jehovah-Sabaoth** "The Lord of Hosts" (1 Sam. 1:3; Jer. 11:20; compare 1 Sam. 17:45). This can also be rendered, "The Lord Almighty." It represents God's power over the nations and was closely tied to Shiloh, to the Ark of the Covenant, and to prophecy. The title designates God as King and ruler of Israel, its armies, its Temple, and of all the universe.
- **Jehovah-Rohi** "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Ps. 23:1). God is the One who provides loving care for His people.

God is the one who *“makes us to lie down in green pastures.”* Our God is the one who *“leads us beside the still waters.”*

Our God is the Shepherd who *“restores our soul”* and *“leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.”*

If and when the time comes for us to *“walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will not fear evil; for He is with us; His rod and staff will comfort us.”*

- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** "The Lord is Our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:5-6; 33:16). This was the name Jeremiah gave to God, the Righteous King, who would rule over Israel after the return from captivity. He would establish a new kingdom of justice.
- **Jehovah-Shammah** "The Lord is There" (Ezk. 48:35) This is the name of God associated with the restoration of Jerusalem, God's dwelling place.

The Lord is there! He is with you. There is no place where you can be that He is not already there. The psalmist said in Psalm 139, *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”*

Back in our text of Psalm 29, the psalmist says, "Give unto the Lord the glory due his name." David wants his readers to recognize the fact that God has "lived up to His name."

David continues in verse two, "*Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness (or "in holy array")*"

Though the phrase may be translated either way, it likely refers to *God's* holiness not the holiness of man. It means, "*Worship the Lord for the splendor of His holiness.*" God is holy. This means that God is set-apart from His creation.

Hannah prayed the following words in 1 Samuel 2:2, "*No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.*"

Worshipping God "in the beauty of holiness" is worshipping God *on His terms* and according to what He has declared about Himself and not what we would like Him to be.

So in the first part of Psalm 29 we have a call to praise. The psalmist calls upon the sons of the Mighty to glorify the Lord. Worship God on His terms, according to who He is.

Next we find the psalmist calling for praise of the Lord, not just for who He is, but for what He can do.

B. Cause for praise: The psalmist describes The Lord's omnipotent control of nature in a terrifying storm.

In verses 3-9 of our text we find what is called by Bible students as a *theophany*. A theophany is a physical appearance or personal manifestation of God to someone.

The Bible tells us that to see God in His fullness would be fatal. God said in Exodus 33:20, "*You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!*" Because to see God in His fullness would be fatal, He chooses in many places in Scripture to reveal Himself through physical appearances or personal manifestations.

In Psalm 29, David gets to the core of his psalm and begins to describe some of the powerful manifestations of the Lord God.

These manifestations serve to establish His supremacy as the only true God, in comparison to any of the so-called gods of Israel's pagan neighbors. In other words, David begins to describe the power of the Lord, and in essence, dares any of the so-called gods of the heathen nations to try to match it.

(Psalm 29:3 NKJV) The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters.

The voice of the LORD. In the Bible, God's voice is frequently associated with the thunder (cf., e.g., 1 Sam. 7:10; Job 37:4, 5; Ps. 18:13; Is. 30:30, 31).

As a boy, I can remember many of the times when a thunderstorm rolled through our area we would all be in the house cuddled up together. My mother would tell us to "*be quiet, while God is doing His work.*"

Oftentimes as I prepare for a sermon, God has already allowed me to experience some of what I would be preaching and teaching about. I guess this week He elected to give me a "refresher course" in "thundering and lightning."

This past week we were in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on vacation. On Wednesday we decided to go to Hershey Amusement Park. While in the park, a storm seemed to be on the horizon and they started to shut down some of the rides. It didn't take much convincing for us to decide to leave the park and sit in our van until the storm blew through and then go back to the park.

Well it seemed like this storm was moving very slowly as it approached the park so we decided to call it a day and leave. As we were leaving, the storm arrived and it gave us a very impressive light show.

Suddenly, as we were riding down the stretch of road, a lightning bolt struck particularly close and shook the entire van. It sounded like the sonic boom that one would hear at a fireworks event but very close up.

On Thursday it was sunny and hot for most of the day and when the evening came another storm rolled in. This time, Deb and the kids were in K-Mart shopping. We were on Route 30 in Lancaster and I was sitting in the car listening to the radio when an emergency broadcast interrupted the program.

The announcement said that a storm would be upon us in 30 minutes or less and they were very sure that this storm would produce a tornado. I was about to call Deb and the kids when they came out of K-Mart.

I tried to calmly tell them the news and said we would go into Burlington next door to K-Mart and wait the storm out. For me, the 30 minutes or so we waited, seemed like an hour. Debbie went about shopping like it was sunny outside. Rosie had no problem with the storm but Shannon and I wanted to hide under the racks of clothing! God was preparing me to preach this sermon!

In verses vv. 3-4 of our text, the thunderstorm David writes about breaks in full fury over the mountains of Lebanon and Mount Hermon—it rolls down the length of Canaan (vv. 5-7), and finally passes out of sight and sound into the wilderness of Kadesh (vv. 8-9).

We saw the thunderstorm in Hershey coming toward the park. Common sense told us to leave the park because if the storm caught us we would be among the rush of the crowd, packing itself in the gifts shops or the restrooms trying to escape the storm.

The powerful storm arrived; the lightning bolts flashed and the thunder quaked. David writes in verses 4 and 5, "*The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.*"

The lightning bolt that shook our van in Hershey, PA helps me to visualize this picture of splintering cedars. The voice of the Lord is powerful!

Cedar wood has always been highly prized by those living in the Middle East. David had a house of cedar built for him by Hiram, king of Tyre (2 Sam 5:11), and Scripture lets us know that he prepared "cedar-trees without number" for the temple which his son Solomon was to build (1 Chr. 22:4).

Cedar timber was abundantly used in the construction of Solomon's temple and palace, the trees being cut in the Lebanon by Sidonians by orders of the king of Tyre--"Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and timber of fir according to all his desire" (1 Ki 5:6-10).

One of Solomon's most important buildings was known as "the house of the forest of Lebanon" (1 Ki 7:2; 10:17; 2 Ch 9:16), on account of the source of its materials. While cedar was well adapted for beams (1

Ki 6:9; Song 1:17), boards (Song 8:9), pillars (1 Ki 7:2) and ceilings (Jer 22:14), it was also used for carved work, such as idols (Isa 44:14,15). It was also used for ships' masts (Ezek 27:5).¹

In Psalm 29, David reminds his readers that it is God who "breaks the cedars" and while many have *redefined* lightning, tornadoes, hurricanes and the like as "natural forces" or their devastation as "natural catastrophes," the Bible calls them "acts of God."

As destructive as lightening, hurricanes, tornadoes and blizzards can be we need to recognize that it is God who controls these forces. The Bible tells us that God is sovereign, which means that He is in control (1 Tim 6:15).

If He wanted to keep these things from happening, all He would have to do is exercise His authority over what belongs to Him (Mark 4:39).

- God flooded the entire earth to cleanse it from God-rejecting people
- He caused thunder and hail to fall from heaven so that Pharaoh would let His people go
- God divided the Red Sea to deliver His people from Pharaoh's soldiers
- He cause water to come from a rock
- The Lord divided the Jordan River to prove that Joshua was the man to follow after Moses died
- He made the sun and moon to stand still so the Israelites could defeat their enemies. (Josh. 10:12-14)
- God made time run backwards as a sign of His mercy to King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:9-11).

Jesus, God the Son, controlled the weather on the Sea of Galilee when He said "peace be still" to the boisterous wind and the sea (Mark 4:37-41).

There are no natural catastrophes. The Bible says in Romans chapter 8 that all of creation is under a curse and groaning and suffering as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. The Bible says that one day this will all change and while creation is waiting for its change to come, it groans like we sometimes do in our sin-cursed bodies.

This is why we have snowstorms and blizzards, hurricanes and earthquakes. Even though man can forecast a hurricane and see its form off the coast of African and track its movement across the Atlantic Ocean towards the United States, there has been nothing he could do to stop its progress.

Well actually, Bill Gates, the billionaire founder of Microsoft, has recently submitted five patent applications for that propose ideas for slowing hurricanes by pumping cold, deep-ocean water in their paths from barges.²

Well let me share with you some "technology" that has a better chance at working then Bill's idea. PRAY! Just like the disciples did in the boat—we can cry out to Jesus! Just like He did on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus can intervene!

But please know that God isn't obligated to change the weather at our every cry. Sometimes God intervenes and says "*peace be still*" and sometimes He doesn't.

We need to realize that even floods, blizzards, tornadoes and hurricanes serve God's purposes in His overarching plan for mankind.

¹ <http://www.bible-history.com/isbe/C/CEDAR/>

² http://www.usatoday.com/weather/research/2009-07-15-gates-hurricanes_N.htm

Believe it or not, the lightning and the ozone that is produced during a thunderstorm purifies the air and kills bacteria and viruses. The rain cools and cleans the air and waters our vegetation. God knows what He's doing when He allows a storm to cross our land.

And God also knows what He is doing when He allows the storms of life blow our way. Just like with atmospheric storms, God uses the storms of life to purify us. He uses them to water us. James says, "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*" (James 1:2 -4)

David continues in our text to speak of the Lord's power in the storm...

*(Psalm 29:6 NKJV) He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
(Psalm 29:7 NKJV) The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.
(Psalm 29:8 NKJV) The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.*

David continues to describe a storm with its lightning and thunder booms. In verse 6-7 he is either describing the skipping action of a lightening bolt or its ability to spread destruction throughout the land.

Even the animals are influenced and overwhelmed by the supremacy of God's power. You can always tell when a storm is brewing by watching what the birds and animals do.

You can tell if a storm is coming by the way the farm animals are behaving as you drive by the pastures along the highway. If it is going to storm, cows will huddle closely together. The closer they are to each other, the worse the weather is likely to be. Pigs typically behave restlessly if there is going to be a wind storm. Bees don't come out of their hives on days which are cloudy or if they think it is going to thunder.³

In Psalm 29:9, David writes, "*The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"*"

The voice of the Lord can make the deer give birth prematurely; it can make strip the forests bear.
The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars!
It can make the cedars skip like a calf!
The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness!
And in His temple everyone says, "*Glory!*"

When you and I come to worship God, these are the kinds of things we should be thinking about. These are the kinds of things that will move us to praise Him. As we consider the power of God exhibited through His creation we ought to be moved to worship Him!

This is why the psalmist ends this section with the words, "*And in His temple everyone says, 'Glory!'*"

In Psalm 29, David issues a *Call to Praise*. He calls upon the mighty ones of the earth to glorify the Lord.

³ http://www.ehow.com/how_2167749_tell-going-storm.html

Then he gives us a *Cause for Praise*. He describes God's omnipotent control of nature in a terrifying storm.

Lastly, he concludes with a *Conveyance of Peace*.

C. *Conveyance of peace*: The psalmist concludes that God sits as King forever and desires to convey strength and peace to His people.

(Psalm 29:10 NKJV) The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever.

This is referring to Noah's flood. Notice the Lord *sat* enthroned at the Flood. I still have images from my childhood showing the wind blowing from the Lord's nostrils and stirring up the flood waters to destroy the wicked that rejected His offering of salvation in the ark.

But notice that in this passage David writes that God "*sat enthroned*" at the Flood. It was as if bringing about the raging, turbulent floodwaters took no effort from God. Guiding Noah and his family through the flood and keeping them out of harm's way didn't require much in the way of effort for God either. What power! What authority!

Verse 10 also says, "*The LORD sits as King forever.*" Just as it took little or no effort for the Lord to stir up the flood waters to destroy the wicked, God doesn't have to "strain" at showing who is in charge of the earth either.

The Lord who "sat enthroned" at the Flood is the same Lord who sits as King forever. The Lord who is the King over the Flood is the same Lord who reigns over the earth in the Year 2009.

In Psalm 29, David has shared with us something of the massive power that God has over His creation. And in verse 11 he concludes with a very encouraging thought:

(Psalm 29:11 NKJV) The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

He who has power over creation will give us strength.

He who "spoke and the worlds were framed" will give His people strength. (Hebrews 11:3)

He who spoke to the storm and said, "*peace be still*" will bless His people with peace.

There may be someone under the sound of my voice whose life is turbulent. You are experiencing one "storm" after another. God wants to give you His peace.

In Luke 7 when the prostitute came to Jesus and expressed her sorrow over her sinful lifestyle, Jesus said to the woman, "*Your faith has saved you; go in peace.*" (vs. 50)

In Luke 8, when another woman came to Jesus with 12 years of vaginal hemorrhaging, He said to her, "*Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.*"

Before Jesus went to the Cross, during an intimate time with His disciples recorded in John 14:27 He said these words, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*"

The Creator of the universe whose thunderous voice can make the deer give birth prematurely, can give you peace.

The Almighty God whose awesome power can strip the forests bare desires to bring calmness to your life.

The Sovereign God whose voice is powerful and full of majesty, the Lord of glory, the King whose voice breaks the cedars, desires to give you His peace.

Notice I didn't say that He wants to take all your problems away. His desire is that no matter what your circumstances, no matter how turbulent your life is, you can, by trusting and depending on Him, experience His peace.

Jesus came so that you might have peace with God and the peace of God. He says in Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

Let us pray.