

PSALMS 28 and 29

In the 28th psalm, David addresses Yahweh with cries for mercy due to the assaults of his enemies. He prophesies their downfall while praising Yahweh for his own deliverance as well as that of God's heritage, the people of Israel.

Psalm 28 **A Psalm of David.**

- 1 To you, O YAHWEH, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
- 2 Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
- 3 Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts.
- 4 Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds;
give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.
- 5 Because they do not regard the works of YAHWEH or the work of his hands,
he will tear them down and build them up no more.
- 6 Blessed be YAHWEH! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
- 7 YAHWEH is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
- 8 YAHWEH is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
- 9 Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

The 29th psalm has reference to that glory of God which we see in the natural creation. When we contemplate the force of the elements or meditate upon the vast expanse of water or the lightning suspended at times over our heads, we are constrained to acknowledge the power of God and our dependence upon him for the prolongation of our temporal existence. Nor are the dangers less which threaten our spiritual life, and it is by him alone that we can be defended from the powers of darkness.

Psalm 29 **A Psalm of David.**

- 1 Ascribe to YAHWEH, O heavenly beings, ascribe to YAHWEH glory and strength.

- 2 Ascribe to YAHWEH the glory due his name; worship YAHWEH in the splendor of holiness.
- 3 The voice of YAHWEH is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
YAHWEH, over many waters.
- 4 The voice of YAHWEH is powerful; the voice of YAHWEH is full of majesty.
- 5 The voice of YAHWEH breaks the cedars; YAHWEH 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 YAHWEH flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of YAHWEH shakes the wilderness; YAHWEH shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of YAHWEH makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- 10 YAHWEH sits enthroned over the flood; YAHWEH sits enthroned as king forever.
- 11 May YAHWEH give strength to his people! May YAHWEH bless his people with peace!

PRAYER

O great and glorious Lord God, sometimes you speak to man in the thunder, sometimes in the "still small voice" of conscience. You have called man to repentance by the voice of one crying in the wilderness, and you will call him from death to judgment by the voice of the once crucified Redeemer. Give us serious apprehensions of your awesome majesty and justice, and at the same time a reliance upon your fatherly care, which has been clearly seen through the loving-kindness and sacrificial death of the Messiah. Endue us with strength through the Holy Spirit, and let us not slumber in doing the work appointed for us here below. And after our labors here are finished, we shall attain our heavenly reward when we reign with Christ and cast our crowns before him. Amen.