

## **Do you listen for the voice of God?**

**January 8, 2017 By Pastor Diana J. Perkins**

**We have had a wonderful time visiting our children in Arizona. While I was there, I spoke with my children by phone quite often as we travelled around between Phoenix and Tucson. I never have to tell them who I am when they answer the phone for they know my voice. Even the grandchildren know that it is their grandmother on the phone as soon as they answer and I speak to them. Today I want to speak to you about hearing the voice of God.**

**In Psalms 29, King David most likely penned these words during a thunder storm that came from the heavens. Psalms 8 was inspired in the moon light and the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm was written on a sunny day. In Psalms 29, David gives glory to God amid the storm that was surrounding him with thunder and lightning. David had a solid relationship with the Lord so he had no fear of the thunderous roar of nature that caused others to tremble. He wrote, "Though the earth is removed, yet will we not fear."**

**David called on the great ones of the world to give glory to God in these first couple of verses of this portion of Scripture. To convince others of the goodness of God whom we ought to adore, he mentioned that the voice of God is powerful, full of majesty through thunder and lightning. Verse 3 speaks of the sovereign dominion God has over the world. Verse 10 gives a glimpse of his special favor to his church. Verse 11 tells us that great and high thoughts should fill our hearts with singing as the Psalms exalts the Lord and his voice to the inhabitants of the earth.**

**David acknowledges God as being above all inhabitants of the earth including all rulers who have been given their positions from God himself. Daniel 2:21 tells us that God sets up kingdoms and he tears them down.**

**All power, wealth, glory and honor comes from God and he allows rulers to have power and wealth but He is the owner of the universe. All things were made by Him and there is nothing that exists that He did not speak into existence. See John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16. Scriptures reveal that Jerusalem flourishes when the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. It is man's duty to give to the LORD! God is not in need of anything for he is self-sustaining, but he desires our recognition of his glory and of his dominion over us and our praise and thanksgiving for all that He is and all that He gives to us.**

**First we must give ourselves to God and then offer our services to him through thanksgiving for all that He has done for us through his son, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

**We need to praise him as a God of infinite majesty and irresistible power. Whatever gifts, talents, power, and honor we have received, praise goes to him for his blessings to us. He has entrusted these things to all of us. Crowned heads must bow before the King of Glory. See Revelation 21:24.**

**Look at Psalm 24. In this Psalm, it tells us that the earth belongs to God and everything that is in it and all people who inhabit it. For He has founded it upon the seas and**

established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD or who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. (Those who have received Christ as their LORD and Savior). There are blessings awaiting them from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Those who seek the face of God will receive a reward. The question is asked, "Who is this king of glory?" The answer is: "The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory."

We are to worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness for without holiness, no man shall see God. Hebrews 12:14.

God's voice is able to break even the strong trees of Lebanon. Natural histories bear witness to the power of storms to bring devastation to the earth. Even insurance companies acknowledge that damage can be done by acts of God.

God speaks in many ways to mankind. Sometimes it is just a still small voice and other times it is with power that frightens those who hear it. In Exodus 19:16-19 God spoke to Moses to bring the people to a mountain where He would talk to them. The Bible says that there was thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, a sound of a trumpet, fire and smoke and the people trembled with fear. God is a holy God and all the earth must respect Him and obey his commandments. He is an awesome God though he is full of love and tender mercy towards his creation.

In 1 Kings 19:12, God seeks Elijah out when he had fled from the wicked queen, Jezebel because she had threatened to kill him within 24 hours. God told him to go and stand on the mountain before the LORD. Elijah obeyed and God passed by. A great and strong wind rent the mountains and broke rocks in pieces but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake came fire, but God was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. The LORD asked him what he was doing there. Elijah told him that he had obeyed the LORD but the children of Israel had fallen into idol worship and the servants of God had been slain and he was the only one left that stood for the truth. Now they were seeking his life to kill him also. The LORD listened to him and then gave him instructions of the route he was to take and the work that he was to continue until the LORD called him to himself. God takes care of his own children and life and death is in his hands. He is in control and He will protect those who honor Him.

In Genesis 9:11 and Isaiah 54:9, we learn that God restrains the waters so the floods will not destroy the earth ever again. The rainbow that we see in the sky is a reminder of the covenant that God had with Noah that the earth would not be destroyed with water ever again. He has dominion over the earth, the sea and the sky.

Those who honor God with praise, He will qualify them for service. He gives strength to his people and fortifies them to fulfill the work that He has planned for them. Regardless of the schemes of Satan and his servants, they cannot come against the children of God

**without God's permission. God promises to strengthen the weak so they will be strong. He promises to be with us and to encourage us so that we will not fear what men can do to us, but we will move forward to complete the tasks that He has called us to do to honor him. He promises to bless us with endless peace and when the wrath of God is poured out on the wicked, we will be safe and will lift up our heads with joy.**

**See Hebrews 3:15. Today, if you hear the voice of God, refrain from hardening your hearts against Him. He is the only way to heaven and the only escape from eternal separation from God in eternity. Heed the calling of God and follow the path to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

**Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice and they won't follow any other." John 10:27.**

**Do you know the voice of God and are you following in the path that leads to eternal life? If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to listen for his voice and answer his call for all other voices will lead you down to the path of destruction. He is the only true shepherd who cares for his sheep. All others are like thieves and robbers for they desire to destroy your soul.**