

## Teach us to Pray (2)

### Introduction

*image: opening praying hands picture*

- "Hallowed be your name"
  - peculiar phrase!!
  - we don't use the word "Hallowed" very much these days!
- What is happening when we say "I praise you" or "I worship you" or "Hallowed be your name"?
  - are we somehow adding to God by praising him?
  - (surely not!)
- We will look at Psalm 29 as an example of praise given to God, an expansion of "Hallowed be your name" into a whole Psalm
  - and try and unpack what is happening as we worship God

### Exposition

*image: "Glory and Strength"*

- throne room of heaven
- angels (mighty ones) are worshipping
- "ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name" - tell it as it is!
- cf Usain Bolt at Olympics - the adulation doesn't make him a greater sprinter, he is that already
- rather it recognises and gives due weight to who he is and what he has done
- So who is this Lord?
  - what has he done?
  - the core of the Psalm then forms a poetic tour through God's power and glory, his greatness, and a tour, north to south, through the promised land where God's people live

*image: "Over the mighty waters" - wave (v.3)*

- great Mediterranean sea, mighty waters, source of chaos and fear for all ancients
- God is greater!

*image: "Breaks the cedars" - chopped tree (v.5)*

- Cedars of Lebanon, great ancient trees
  - these were the timbers you used for your greatest building projects, the Temple, the royal palaces...
  - chosen for their strength, durability...
  - and God can break them like matchsticks!

*image: "Skip like a calf"*

- Life and strength giver is the imagery here

*image: "With flashes of lightning"*

- Lightning was completely unexplained in the ancient world
  - a number of cultures had thunder as the voice of God - cf Thor in Norse mythology
  - associated with power and greatness
  - God can speak and the lightning flashes, he can bring fire and judgement and destruction whenever and wherever he chooses

*image: "Shakes the desert"*

- imagery now is of earthquake, shaking the earth
- associated too with mastery over the unconquerable, devastating harshness of

the Judean desert...

*image: "Strips the forest bare"*

- We return to the imagery of forest - again God is greater
- shouldn't get too hung up on God tearing everything down all the time!
- the point is that he is in charge, able to destroy, because he is master over everything

*image: "Enthroned as King forever" (v.10)*

- In other words, he is King
  - and as king is able to strengthen his people, protect them
  - for an ancient Israelite, rather than feeling insecure in world that God might at any point rip apart, they feel secure in the care of one who is able to do all those things!

*image: repeat praying hands picture*

- And so they cried - and so we echo Jesus' words - [Hallowed be your name](#)

## Conclusion

- We are declaring an external reality - God's greatness - to indeed be true
  - and we are also aligning ourselves with that reality
  - God is Lord over my life - I am secure in his protection and care - and my desire is that this "[real reality](#)" be declared and made concrete in my life and in the world around me
- And this needs to be a part of our prayer life, our engagement with God - that we worship him, that we "[tell it like it really is](#)", reminding and aligning ourselves with God's reality