

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Psalm 29
The Psalm of the Thunderstorm
Version 2
(Audio is poor, but audible)

Editorial Note: It is my belief that this series on Psalms was recorded while Sidney and Violet Cox resided in retirement at The Eventide residence in Detroit, Michigan. This was during the period 1962 through 1972. Sidney Cox was 75 years of age in 1962.

At various points in the recordings, he states that he is meeting with this group weekly to lead this series; however, when listening to the recordings, there does not seem to be a live congregation. At another spot in the series, he explains that he has also been taping these messages for further distribution.

During this period in his life, Sidney Cox often preached and taught in various churches around the Detroit area, but for a variety of reasons, including the declining health of his beloved wife, Violet, he was increasingly unable to travel extensively. As a result, he began to experiment with tape-recording his messages and lessons in order to send them to interested groups.

Thus, it is impossible to know if he delivered this series in person to a church group, or whether he recorded the series for them to listen to in their Sunday School or other meetings. It was likely both.

The order in which he presented the weekly series was: Psalm 24, Psalm 40, Psalm 46, Psalm 91 and Psalm 117. In addition, there are two recordings made in two different settings of Psalm 29, which do not seem to be part of the formal series.

The audio quality of these recordings varies a great deal. Some are quite good while others are poor.

J. Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. July 30, 2010.

I would like to thank you, first of all, as we meet together in our home Bible class. How very nice it is to see you and how sincerely we are hoping that God will give you real blessing. In a few moments we shall be studying together Psalm 29. And perhaps you would like to turn to it in your Bible right now. By the way, while you're doing that you be sure you make yourself comfortable now. Because for the next twenty minutes or so, we shall be talking together about Psalm 29. Now, before we do that, let's just stop and have a word of prayer together.

(Prayer)

Our Father, we pray for Thy blessing upon us as we are looking to Thee in faith for thy grace and understanding, for the Word of God that lies before us. We pray that the Holy Spirit Himself may be

our teacher and that we may consciously yield ourselves to His control for the next few minutes, that the spirit of God may be able to bring to us that which God intends us to hear in this simple, little home Bible class. And so, for Thy blessing upon us we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now, in a few moments we shall read together Psalm 29. But before we do that, let me introduce the thought that many of our psalms contain a physical happening - something that is happening physically. And it is the background, the thing that is in the mind of the writer and perhaps in his eyes as he is writing the psalm. And whenever we can detect this, it helps us in our understanding of the words and the thoughts that are expressed in the psalm.

For instance, we do not have to wonder what David was thinking about when he wrote the 23rd Psalm. The picture of it is so clearly before our minds - the hillsides, and the shepherds, and the sheep, and the still waters, and the green pastures. It's all so clear before us.

When David wrote the 24th Psalm and he said, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,"¹ he's not using merely a nice prophetic phrase, not at all. He's actually describing some particular gate and some particular wall. And he is thinking particularly of the return of the Arc of the Covenant to Jerusalem after it had been captured by the Philistines 22 or 23 years before, and had been in the house of Abinadab and is now being brought to its resting place in the capital city of Jerusalem.²

When we hear in the 8th Psalm, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth,"³ we know what David is thinking about. Because there came a moment when he discovered just how excellent that name was. Here is David speaking of an incident that happened in his life. One day he faced a giant, nine feet six tall. And when he faced this tremendous person, he said to him, "You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts."⁴ And David learned on that occasion how great was the name of the Lord of hosts. No wonder he wrote the psalm that begins and ends with the words, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth." And so you can go on and on and on.

But here we have a psalm that lies before us, number 29. A beautiful, short psalm. Not one of those that we turn to frequently, perhaps occasionally. But I'm wondering as we read it, if you will listen carefully and see if you can see or hear in the midst of it a physical happening. Something that is taking place that is physical. And this physical happening is used as the illustration for the spiritual truth that is in the midst of the psalm.

And now, my dear, have you got your place in your Bible? That's good. Now, let's turn please, and we'll read together Psalm 29. You will notice that it's just a short psalm. Eleven verses, and this is what it says.

1 Psalm 24:7

2 Abinadab was a man at whose house on a hill in Kiriath-jearim the Ark of the Covenant was lodged after its return to Israel by the Phillistines. It remained there for 20 years until David brought it first to the house of Obededom and later into Jerusalem itself.

3 Psalm 8:1

4 I Samuel 17:45

incidental things that give us some idea of the fury of the storm? That as it moves southward, it moves through the area where the cattle would be living and grazing. And it was such that the pregnant animals in these herds of cattle, in the fury of the storm and the fear that accompanied it, lost their young prematurely. "He maketh the hinds to calve." It's all a part of the description of the fury of the storm.

Now, dear, just for a minute or two, let's ask ourselves this question: Why would a psalmist spend that much time just describing a storm, and why would the Holy Spirit put that psalm in the book of God and make it a part of the Bible? Surely, there must be a reason, and there is. And the reason, I think, lies quite close to the surface. And I'm hoping that each one of us can see it. Not only see it, but understand it. Let me make this remark and you will understand this, I know. Life, my dear, is made up of one storm after another. Now, that's so in your life. I don't know you intimately, but I know enough about your life for that. That it has been made up of one storm after another. And the reason I know it is this, that's the story of my life too. It has been one storm after another. Now, not only do you know it, and not only do I know it, but God knows it too. He knows that life is one storm after another.

The book of God just encourages us over and over again to turn to Him, a refuge in the time of storm. Now, dear, here is God pointing out what life is like and saying to us, no matter how the storm may rage, no matter what seeming destruction it may bring, no matter how it may move, God is saying something to us through the voice of the storm. And He says something to us that is exactly opposite to the voice of the storm.

A storm on one side. What would be the opposite voice to that? What was the opposite to the noise of the storm on the Lake of Galilee when our Lord stilled the storm and instead of a great storm there was a great calm? Now, our word for calm is, peace. And not only that, dear, but that's God's word too. Peace in the midst of the storm. And he wants us to know that in the midst of the storms of life, that he can bring to us that which only God can give, the peace of God that passeth all understanding. Now, that's not only an old teacher talking to you, let's read those last verses. When you get to end of a psalm, you find out what it's all about. "The Lord sitteth upon the flood" - Verse 10, that's true. He's controlling it. He sitteth there as King. The King has something to say, something to do with this storm.

What does he say? And the last verse gives it to us. We'd better listen with our hearts as well as our ears. "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless His people with peace." And in the midst of the storms of life, your life, your storms, there is someone who not only controls the storms but speaks peace to our hearts. Now, we've not only heard the voice of a storm, and a voice of an old psalmist of years ago, but if we stop long enough we can hear somebody talking to us this morning and saying, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you."⁵ Now, you know who it was that said that.

And here in these days in which we live, God still speaks. But he speaks to us as the first verse of the first chapter of Hebrews tells us, He speaks to us in these days through his Son. And maybe the Son of God has been listening and talking to you, my dear, and saying, "If you'll trust me, if you'll just let me do what I want with your life, I shall not stop the storms from coming, but I'll still the storm when it

5 John 14:27

does come and I'll see to it that it brings you blessing. And in the midst of it I'll give you my peace.”

And so we've been talking together about Psalm 29. And I want to tell you, how nice it has been to be with you. And I hope you'll carry your Bible home and perhaps mark at the head of the chapter, “The Psalm of the Thunderstorm”.

Prayer:

Our Father, we pray for Thy blessing upon us as we close our class. How grateful we are for these few moments that we have been able to spend in Thy presence and with the light of the Word shining upon our faces, and leaving its sound, its beautiful sound, within our hearts. And so for Thy blessing upon these dear ones we pray. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Now, that's the end of our class for today. And I hope you'll be with us when we meet again at some future time, next week possibly. And when we do, bring somebody with you who is as nice as you are. Okay? Goodbye and God bless you.