

# John 12:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

## Analysis

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The crowd hears the sound but interprets it diversely: some say thunder, others angels. This demonstrates spiritual perception's variation—identical phenomenon, different interpretations. Their natural explanations miss supernatural reality. This parallels Paul's Damascus road companions who heard sound but didn't understand (Acts 9:7). Spiritual truth requires spiritual discernment (1 Cor 2:14). The divergent interpretations show that divine revelation doesn't automatically produce understanding. Hearts must be prepared to receive God's word.

## Historical Context

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Thunder was sometimes interpreted as divine voice in ancient Judaism (Ps 29). The crowd's varied responses reflect different spiritual sensitivity levels, providing realistic historical detail validating the account.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the crowd's varied interpretation teach about spiritual perception's necessity for understanding divine revelation?
2. How can we develop greater spiritual sensitivity to recognize God's voice?
3. What divine communications might we be misinterpreting as 'thunder'—natural rather than supernatural?

## Interlinear Text

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ο	οὖν	ὅχλος	ό	ἐστὼς	καὶ	ἀκούσας	ἔλεγον
G3588	therefore	The people	G3588	that stood by	and	heard	it said
	G3767	G3793		G2476	G2532	G191	G3004
βροντὴν	γεγονέναι	ἄλλοι	ἔλεγον	Ἄγγελος	αὐτῷ		
G1027	that it thundered	others	it said	An angel	to him		
	G1096	G243	G3004	G32	G846		
λελάληκεν							
spake							
	G2980						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 14:2** (Parallel theme): And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: