

Psalm 29:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Analysis

The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace. The psalm concludes with pastoral promise, shifting from cosmic storm (v.3-9) and eternal reign (v.10) to covenant care for God's people. This closing verse applies the preceding theology to believers' lives—God's power serves His people's welfare.

"The LORD will give strength unto his people" (יְהָוָה oz le'ammo yitten) promises divine empowerment. Oz means strength, might, power—the same word used for God's own strength throughout Psalms. God doesn't merely possess strength; He gives it to His people. The imperfect tense (yitten) indicates future certainty or ongoing action: "will give" or "continually gives." This recalls Isaiah 40:29-31: "He giveth power to the faint...they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength."

"His people" (imy/ammo) identifies the recipients—God's covenant people. Am specifically means covenant community, not humanity generally. Throughout Scripture, God's "people" are those in relationship with Him—Israel under old covenant, church under new covenant. Romans 9:25-26 applies Hosea's prophecy to Gentile believers: "I will call them my people, which were not my people." Peter declares: "Ye are...a peculiar people" (1 Peter 2:9). God's strength is promised specifically to His own.

The connection is profound: the same strength that thunders over waters (v.3),

breaks cedars (v.5), shakes wilderness (v.8), strips forests bare (v.9)—this strength God gives His people. He doesn't hoard His power but shares it. Believers receive divine strength for life's challenges. Paul testified: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Ephesians 6:10 commands: "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

"The LORD will bless his people with peace" (Yahweh yevarekh et-ammo vashalom) promises comprehensive welfare. Barach means to bless, favor, prosper. Shalom encompasses peace, wholeness, completeness, welfare, harmony, prosperity—not merely absence of conflict but presence of comprehensive blessing. God's blessing produces shalom—right relationship with God, inner tranquility, outer prosperity, communal harmony.

The juxtaposition is striking: after depicting violent storm, the psalm concludes with peace. The same God whose voice shatters cedars blesses His people with shalom. This paradox reveals God's character—terrifying in power toward chaos and enemies, yet tender in care toward His own. The storm that devastates Lebanon brings rain that blesses Israel. God's might serves His people's welfare.

Historical Context

The contrast between cosmic storm and covenant blessing reflects Israel's historical experience. The same God who demonstrated terrifying power at Sinai—thunder, lightning, earthquake, trumpet blast (Exodus 19-20)—gave Torah for Israel's blessing. The awesome theophany that made people tremble produced covenant that brought shalom.

Deuteronomy 28 details covenant blessings and curses. If Israel obeyed, God promised: rain, crops, livestock, military victory, reputation, prosperity—comprehensive shalom. If they disobeyed, curses mirrored blessings' reversal. The psalm's promise—strength and peace—encapsulates covenant blessing. God's power works for His people's benefit when they trust Him.

Prophets regularly connected divine power and covenant blessing. Isaiah 40 emphasizes both: God's incomparable power (v.12-26) and His tender care for His

people (v.11, 29-31). Jeremiah pronounces judgment on disobedient Israel while promising new covenant bringing peace (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Ezekiel envisions restored Israel experiencing God's blessing: "They shall dwell safely therein...and shall know that I am the LORD their God" (Ezekiel 34:27-28).

Jesus embodied this paradox. He demonstrated divine power—calming storms, multiplying food, raising dead, commanding demons. Yet He declared: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). His resurrection revealed supreme power over death; His indwelling Spirit imparts peace (John 14:27; Galatians 5:22).

Paul's theology emphasizes this: "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20). The same God who exercises cosmic power defeats spiritual enemies and grants believers peace. Church history testifies to this paradox: martyrs experienced supernatural peace while facing violent death; persecuted saints maintained joy amid suffering; believers throughout history have found that God's strength sustains through every trial.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the same divine strength that manifests in terrifying storms become the strength God gives His people, and what does this teach about how God's power serves His love?
2. What is the relationship between the strength God gives and the peace He blesses His people with, and why are both necessary for Christian life?
3. How can believers access the strength this verse promises, and what does it mean practically to receive divine strength for daily challenges?
4. What is 'shalom' (peace), and how does it encompass more than mere absence of conflict or emotional calm?

5. How did Jesus embody the paradox of this psalm—demonstrating terrifying divine power while granting His followers peace?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי־עַزְעַם	יְהִי־עַתָּה	יְבָרֶךְ־אֶת	עַמִּים
The LORD	strength	his people	will give
H3068	H5797	H5971	H5414
The LORD	will bless		
H3068	H1288	H853	
his people			
H5971			

בָּשָׁלוֹם:

with peace

H7965

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 40:31 (References Lord): But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (Peace): Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 40:29 (Parallel theme): He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

John 16:33 (Peace): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Psalms 37:11 (Peace): But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalms 68:35 (Blessing): O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (Peace): Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:17 (Peace): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Zechariah 10:12 (References Lord): And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.