

Jokes re picture Message

If *lightning* strikes an orchestra, who's most likely to get hit? The conductor.

"Marriages are made in heaven. But so again, are thunder and lightning." — Clint Eastwood



Luther Clip

That lightning strike scared Luther so much that he promised to be a monk if he survived the night.

I think we have all experienced a very close lightning strike.

All of a sudden, you become aware that the world is much bigger than you know. There is energy out there that is frightening – terrifying.

I used to go out to sea on the cray boats in Geraldton – it's all good – then you can't see land – then it gets a bit rough – you very quickly become a very small frightened fish in a very big sea.

Our Psalm is called a “song” of David – a praise psalm.

As we read it there doesn't seem to be too much to praise God about – it's terrifying.

God's word destroys and shatters.

God's glory thunders.

You know the bravest toughest, dog goes into melt down at the sound of thunder.

Thunder can shake our buildings, rattle our windows.

We have to teach our kids not to be scared – it's only thunder we say – knowing full well it's caused by lightning – producing about a billion volts per strike - and this is a psalm of praise?

The strength and power of God's voice alone shatters trees to oblivion, it causes floods, it makes mountains skip and shake, it divides fire, it shakes the wilderness, and strips forests bare.

It causes the deer to give birth before it's time, and the young one born to shake in fear – this is an ugly image.

This is the ugly side of livestock transport up north – I hope you never have to see.

Animals are rounded up – especially wild animals – goats – horses. I have seen them so scared that they just drop their babies on the spot.

Look up psalm 29 verse 9 in most versions and you will see that they don't include this ugly verse – it's too ugly – the voice of the Lord makes the animals so scared they drop their babies on the spot – too ugly for some versions.

This psalm is fearsome, it's a terrifying display of strength beyond our imagination.

It makes you wonder what is in it for me?

What's the point?

We see the last verse – all this power and might and terror of God is channelled, funnelled, into one purpose – to bring us peace.

Peace be with you.

Next time you're in a storm – take note of all that power and energy and know it is dedicated by God to give us peace.

It's God's nature – I read somewhere it is his "majestic ego" to bring us peace – even at the expense of Jesus.

Jesus on a cross – we see the evil of men poured out on Jesus back, the sky goes dark, the earth shakes, the rocks split, the curtain tears in two – bringing us peace.

There is a Storm in Galilee – a “violent” storm. In Greek it says it was a “mega” storm.

Jesus uses his voice to calm the storm – he “rebukes the storm” —he brings peace and blessing where there was once chaos and fear.

The disciples witness all the power and might of God described in psalm 29, harnessed by Jesus and transferred into three words, “Peace, be still”.

The terrified disciples look at each other and ask “Who is this? Even the wind and waves obey him!” ([Mark 4:41](#)).

Only God can calm his own power.

You know after Easter Jesus said “peace be with you” 3 times – not once before.

He used his voice to bring peace and calm where people were terrified.

They were scared to the point of death because of the hatred in the Jews.

They were scared because Jesus walked through the wall.

They were scared because Jesus showed them the holes in his hands –
to this fear he said “peace be with you”.

The might and power and purpose of God is to bring us peace.

And now that same will of God is invested in you to bring peace to our friends and neighbours.

The object of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is to bring us peace.

It’s too obvious our mission is to bring peace.

Have a read of the writing of Clemment on the front of your bulletin – Clement gets a mention in Philippians 4 – as a worker “alongside Paul”.

See how he asks us to serve our neighbour – in bringing our neighbour peace we do God’s will.

It is said the “majestic ego” of God is to bring us peace.

Can it be your majestic ego to bring others peace.

Our psalm tells us that awesome power of God, beyond our imagination, which is able to disintegrate us in a flash, is funnelled and poured onto us as peace.

I have met this lovely Jewish lady who lives next to Christ Church. I love to chat with her and greet her with “Shalom Lekah” – God’s peace to you . And in the current anti-Semitic world she really appreciates it. She replies Shalom Lekah – God’s peace to you.

In Genesis Joseph meets his brothers who have sold him off to slavery, told his father he was dead, eaten by a lion, and betrayed him at every level - years and years later Joseph is confronted by his brothers. How does he greet them?

Remember Joseph is the ruling governor of Egypt he could have them killed in a flash.

Joseph says to his brothers, in Hebrew, “Shalom Lakem” – God’s peace be with you – no one is going to harm you – then he says, “what you intended for evil God intended for good”

All the power and might of Joseph was channelled toward his brother betrayers – to give them peace.

Let your majestic ego bring peace of some kind – to some kind. Amen.

Lord bless us with a will to bring peace in this troubled world. Amen.