

What a Word Is This!

“And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

Luke 4:36

INTRODUCTION: Consider the voice of God: it is an aspect of His works that deserves great praise.

- A. David made repeated reference to the voice of the LORD in connection to great storms; each reference to His voice should be based on thunder and those things connected to it (Psalm 29).
- B. Other psalms also refer to the great power of God’s glorious voice (Ps 46:6; 68:33; 77:18; 104:7).
- C. God is not like a man when He speaks (Numbers 23:19; Job 40:9-14; Rom 4:17; Ecclesiastes 8:4).
 - 1. When God speaks, He does not see obstacles and repent, for He is not like a man (Num 23:19).
 - 2. He can call things that are future, as though they were past, by His certain word (Rom 4:17).
- D. There is no power in heaven or in hell to stop God’s word (Ps 33:9; Isaiah 46:11; 48:15; Jer 4:28).
- E. The judgment of God is sure when He has spoken it (Ezekiel 5:13-15; 12:26-28; 18 more times).
- F. The providential control of nature is also by the word of God (Job 26:11-14; Jeremiah 51:15-16).
- G. Jesus Christ is the express image of God and upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3).
- H. Do not think for a minute He has a voice compatible with Catholic art (Rev 1:10,15; 4:1; 14:2)!
- I. This study is for those that take pleasure and delight in God’s works (Psalm 37:4; 77:11-12; 111:2).
- J. In the temple of God, everyone speaks of His glory, which is seen in His voice (Ps 29:9; I Cor 3:16).
- K. The practical lesson of this study is the comfort and faith it gives by strength and peace (Ps 29:11).

EXAMPLE #1: The voice of God initiated the creation of the world in six twenty-four days (Gen 1:3).

- A. God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. God commanded light to shine out of darkness.
- B. We believe in the big bang theory! God spoke, and bang! There were things created from nothing.
- C. The sources of light – the sun, moon, and stars – were created three days later (Genesis 1:14-19).
- D. How long did it take for the light of stars to get to earth? Did Adam get to see the stars in his life?
- E. Creation occurred on the other days by God’s voice as well (Genesis 1:6,9,11,14-15,20,24,26).
- F. It is this glorious creation of light in darkness that is used in bringing faith in the gospel (II Cor 4:6).

EXAMPLE #2: The voice of God authorized and prospered an evil spirit to deceive (I Kings 22:22-23).

- A. God said, “Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.” And the spirit did so.
- B. God directs the elect angels by His word (Ps 103:20), and He also directs the evil angels (Job 1:12).
- C. The blessed and holy God inspired Micaiah the prophet to antagonize King Ahab (I Kgs 22:14-18).
- D. God confirmed His word by His prophet Micaiah with a providential arrow (I Kgs 22:28 cp 22:34).

EXAMPLE #3: The voice of God initiated divine blessings and prosperity upon Israel (Ezekiel 16:1-8).

- A. God said, to the helpless little infant dying in its own blood, “Live!” And the nation of Israel lived!
- B. The power of God’s voice transformed the unwanted and hopeless infant into a mighty nation.
- C. God surely said, “Prosper!” to this nation, for America became great in a few years from nothing.

EXAMPLE #4: The voice of God demoted the greatest monarch in history to a beast (Daniel 4:28-33).

- A. God said, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.”
- B. The greatest impeachment in history occurred the very same hour upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

EXAMPLE #5: A centurion with a dying servant knew Jesus could heal by His word (Matt 8:5-13).

- A. This centurion did not count himself worthy of the Lord's presence, but trusted His spoken word!
- B. Jesus observed that He had not witnessed such great faith in all of Israel. Let us emulate this man!

EXAMPLE #6: The voice of God turned a lunch into a feast for thousands (Matt 14:15-21; 15:32-38).

- A. Jesus Christ simply blessed the bread and multiplied it mightily to the hungry crowds of hearers.
- B. Consider! The lunch was small; the crowd was huge; they were all hungry; they were all filled; and great quantities of leftovers were recovered afterwards.
- C. He did this twice! One for 5000 men plus families; and once for 4000 men plus families. Glory!

EXAMPLE #7: The voice of God calmed a great storm at sea into a great calm (Mark 4:35-51).

- A. Jesus Christ said, "Peace, be still." And a great storm became a great calm by His mere word!
- B. Even the disciples feared exceedingly the power of His word against the elements of wind and rain.

EXAMPLE #8: The voice of God initiated the outpouring of gifts for the apostles (Mark 16:15-20).

- A. The apostles could cast out devils, speak foreign languages, take up serpents, drink deadly poisons, heal the sick, and raise the dead, among other miraculous signs and wonders and revelatory gifts.
- B. The record of the apostles in Acts is incredible (Acts 2:8; 3:1-11; 5:12-15; 19:11-12; 28:1-6).
- C. And this great power was predicated on the power given to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 28:18-20).

EXAMPLE #9: The voice of God turned a fishing nightmare into a great success (Luke 5:1-11).

- A. Jesus said, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." They almost drowned!
- B. Having taken nothing all night, they broke the net and nearly filled and sank two ships by His word!
- C. Peter, witnessing this wonderful act of divine power, came under great conviction for his sinfulness.
- D. Simon Peter closed out his earthly relationship with Jesus Christ in a similar situation (John 21:1-6).

EXAMPLE #10: The voice of God completely healed an incurable leper (Luke 5:12-15).

- A. Jesus said, "I will: be thou clean." The leper knew the power of God's word (Matthew 8:16).
- B. Full of leprosy, the healing power of Christ immediately made him fit for the strict Law of Moses.

EXAMPLE #12: Jesus stopped a funeral to help a widow recover her son before burial (Luke 7:11-18).

- A. Does Jesus care? He saw this widow, had compassion on her, and told her not to cry any longer!
- B. When Jesus attends funerals and gives His powerful command to arise, dead men get up and talk!
- C. We cannot forget the dead 12-year-old daughter of Jairus! Jesus said, "Maid, arise" (Luke 8:40-56).

EXAMPLE #13: The voice of God ended a rich man's life when he least suspected it (Luke 12:16-21).

- A. God said to a successful man one night, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."
- B. An illustrious career of business successes can end in one night with a few words from the Lord.
- C. His plans for larger barns to store his great prosperity were not taken into account by the Lord.

EXAMPLE #14: The voice of God foretold Peter's thrice denial of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:61).

- A. Jesus told Peter, in advance, against His absolute personal confidence, that he would deny Him.
- B. One look from the Lord Jesus Christ reminded Peter of his weakness compared to Christ's word.

EXAMPLE #15: The voice of God raised dead Lazarus from the grave after four days (John 11:37-45).

- A. Jesus Christ said, "Lazarus, Come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth to them.
- B. Jesus called him from the grave (John 12:17-18). This text well explains God's call to salvation.
- C. The servants standing by were comparable to ministers, all they did was take the grave clothes off!

EXAMPLE #16: The voice of God initiates our regeneration through the Spirit by Christ (John 5:25).

- A. It is the voice of the Son of the God that resurrects men dead in trespasses and sins to eternal life.
- B. We understand this to be regeneration by context and comparison (John 5:24; Revelation 20:6).
- C. It is not the voices of mere preachers or soul winners about the Son of God, but His very voice.
- D. Jesus had sheep not of the Jewish fold, and they also would hear His voice (John 10:16). Glory!

EXAMPLE #17: The voice of God shall resurrect all dead bodies in the last day (John 5:28-29).

- A. Simply by His life-giving voice, the Son of God will raise all dead bodies from their graves.
- B. Paul refers to this resurrecting voice as a shout of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (I Thess 4:16).
- C. There is no power in heaven or in hell to resist Him, though the wicked will not want to rise!

EXAMPLE #18: The voice of God shall damn men with eternal judgment in that day (Matt 7:21-23).

- A. Jesus Christ will say to them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
- B. Consider the alternate wording from the description of the final judgment elsewhere (Matt 25:41).

CONCLUSION: Consider the voice of God; it is an aspect of Him that can give comfort and peace.

- A. God's great voice can give you strength when weak, and peace when opposed by enemies (Ps 29:9).
- B. God's word and voice should cause us to praise His great power (Psalm 9:1; 95:1-6; 107; 145:4,10).
- C. The sovereign word of God should cause you to carefully heed His conditional word (Ps 95:7-11).
- D. Surely you can take some pleasure in the next thunderstorm you witness. Enjoy the voice of God! He wants you to appreciate it (Job 26:14; 37:1-5; 40:9; Jer 51:6)!