

## Psalm 33

### Verses 1-3

***Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.***

**<sup>2</sup> *Praise the LORD with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.***

**<sup>3</sup> *Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully, and shout for joy***

- The Psalmist commands the “righteous” to sing praise to YHWH. The righteous are those who know YHWH. They are not good in and of themselves. They are righteous because they seek to please Him by the way they live. It is “fitting,” meaning appropriate, for them to praise YHWH. The reasons for this will be delineated in what follows.
- They are to praise Him with musical instruments which are skillfully played.
- They are to “SHOUT” for joy as they praise YHWH.

### Verses 4-5

**<sup>4</sup> *For the word of the LORD is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.***

**<sup>5</sup> *The LORD loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.***

- The first reason that God’s people should praise Him is that His word, what the Lord says is “right and true.” This means that what God says in the Bible, is entirely true. He tells no lies. He utters no falsehood.
- This is confirmed by what He does. He acts in accord with His word so that His truthfulness and dependability are confirmed by His actions. God’s word and God’s actions are always in agreement with each other.
- God loves “righteousness and justice.” The righteousness and the justice of God are references to how He acts toward His people. He is dependable and faithful. The powerless may come to Him in assurance of a fair hearing.

The oppressed may come to Him in assurance of redress. The needy may come to Him assured of help. Earthly status, position, wealth, do not earn anyone anything with YHWH. He will act faithful to His word in every situation and cause.

- The earth is full of His “unfailing love.” The Hebrew word means His mercy, His grace. If God acted towards us out of righteousness and justice alone, we would all go to hell because “we have all sinned and fallen short” (Romans). But God responds to us from “love” (John 3:16).

### **Verses 6-11**

***<sup>6</sup>By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.***

***<sup>7</sup>He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.***

***<sup>8</sup>Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all the people of the world revere him.***

***<sup>9</sup>For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.***

***<sup>10</sup>The LORD foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.***

***<sup>11</sup>But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.***

- The second reason that God’s people should praise Him is that He is the causal agent in creation (see Genesis 1:1-2). It simply means that nothing which we see in creation exists by accident. All creation was spoken into existence by YHWH. This is based on the reliable word of a faithful God who is dependable and true. This is undeniable truth!
- Verse 7 means that God set the limits which bind creation.
- All the people of the earth and all elements of creation must “fear,” respect, YHWH because He created them.
- While the plans of nations come and go at the compromise of governments formed by men, God’s plans stand forever and cannot be changed by any human force. In fact, God alters the plans of nations to accomplish His plan. All things around us move toward the conclusion as it is described in the word of the Lord. Nothing can change the plans and purposes of YHWH. He is working His plan.

## Verses 12-22

- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.**
- <sup>13</sup> From heaven the LORD looks down  
and sees all mankind;**
- <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches  
all who live on earth—**
- <sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all,  
who considers everything they do.**
- <sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.**
- <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.**
- <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,**
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death  
and keep them alive in famine.**
- <sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the LORD;  
he is our help and our shield.**
- <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.**
- <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,  
even as we put our hope in you.**

- “Blessed is the nation whose God is YHWH.” This is not just a nice saying. This is the great climatic declaration of Psalm 33. It is clear and specific. 1. It declares that YHWH, the God of the nation of Israel, is the God by which nations are blessed. It is of no avail for a nation to align itself with any other god, for no other god or philosophy can bring that nation blessing. Only YHWH brings blessing to a nation. 2. The “people YHWH chooses for His inheritance” is ISRAEL. To oppose Israel is to place oneself outside of the blessing of God because Israel is the nation of God’s choosing.
- The Psalmist says that YHWH is watching all that happens on the face of the earth. Nothing man conceives catches Him by surprise nor escapes His notice. He who made us, knows everything about us.
- No government is saved in the strength of its own power. Military weapons, horses, cannot deliver any nation.

- Still YHWH watches over all. His eyes see those who are looking to Him for help and whose only hope is YHWH. He alone has the power to deliver us from death and from the troubles we face in life.
- Those who know YHWH praise Him because our help is in the Lord. He is our help in times of peace and in times of trouble. Our hope and our help is in the name of YHWH, the name of the Lord.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Blessed Is the Nation*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship*, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)