

Psalm 33 God is in Control

by Pastor Roy Hogan

There is no caption at the beginning of this chapter linking it to King David. Who was the writer? Who did God use to pen down this chapter in the Word of God? The first 41 chapters of the book of Psalms are referred to the First Book of Psalms. In these 41 chapters, only four chapters, 1, 2, 10 and 33, are not linked to David in some manner. You will note this in the chapter headings of your Bible.

Even though we are not sure who wrote this 33rd Psalm, the setting seems to be a time of national crisis. This Psalm exalts the God of the universe in a mighty way. We have reassurance in this Psalm that God is in control of all matters in all the universe at all times. He is in control of all that is, all that was, and all that is to come.

33:1

Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

The most lacking portion of my life is my praise toward God. Some years ago, the Devil started praising God, and it scared the righteous away. What an amazing tactic of Satan! Of course, his praise is artificial. Nevertheless, the righteous began to think praising God would identify them with the Devil, so they backed off praising him. This is a shame and unfortunate. Praise is comely, that is, in order, for the righteous. I am sorry to have to say that I know some who claim to be in the Christian walk that will not lift their hand or their voice toward Heaven. When I read a verse of scripture such as this verse, I believe we are commanded to praise him. Praise is not optional. We are amiss if we do not praise God. Who has done more for us than has God?

33:2-3

Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. 3 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

Music is very prevalent in the Old Testament. Over and over, reference is made to music. I love and appreciate Gospel music. It moves my soul. It energizes my heart. Musical instruments and the human voice are both recognized as a way to praise God. Some denominations are against musical instruments. God rest their poor souls. They do not know what they are missing.

Relax and take a deep breath for praise does not take the place of preaching. We preachers are safe. When the choir is lifting up their voice in praise of the Lamb of God, they are not stealing our preaching time. Verse 2 and 3 command us to praise God with voice and instruments. There is no preaching in verse 2 and 3. If we praised God more, maybe we could preach better. The saints are to praise God because of who he is and what he has done for us. We could be in hell! Praise has its place in the church and in our daily walk. How long has it been since you paused from your busy schedule and told the LORD how wonderful he is and how good he is to you?

We are commanded in verse 3 to play *skillfully*. We do not need a dictionary to know what that means. If you can't play an instrument, don't get on the stage and embarrass the work of the Lord. If you play an instrument at church, practice at home until you become skilled. If the preacher does not study, kick him out. If the instrumentalists do not practice, kick them out. If the singers do not practice, they should not sing. What is we put as much time into the Lord's work as we do our hobbies and jobs?

Regarding the singers, verse 3 commands us to *sing unto him a new song*. We sing *new* songs, but we have an *old* theme. To sing a new song indicates we have spent time thinking about the LORD. Do you ever think about the LORD? If you will spend time thinking about him you will have new thoughts of him. To sing a new song calls for thought. Maybe the preacher should preach the same message every service. If he did, he would be fired and rightfully so. Hang around the Lord and you will have fresh thoughts of him.

33:4-5

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. 5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Not surprisingly, verse 4 points us to a familiar place, the Word of God. Songs should be about the Bible. Praising should be centered around the Word of God. The only source of truth is the Word of God. I am not truth. The pastor is not truth. The quartet is not truth. Do we want to sing a true song? Do we want to praise him in truth? Certainly, we do. Thus, song and praise must be centered on the Bible. I prefer *Bible* songs, don't you?

What is missing most in today's society? The answer is simple, and it is the Bible. Without the Bible, we are incapable of knowing truth. Without the Bible, children wander aimlessly in the streets and are easy prey for the dope dealer. If men knew truth, the prisons would be empty. Sometimes, planes are in a heavy fog or in thick clouds. How does the pilot navigate the aircraft? He has instruments that guide him. I have looked out the window of the plane on several occasions when nothing was visible. Suddenly, the plane touches the runway. How was this possible? The pilot had instruments for direction. He had truth and truth will not mislead. This world is foggy. Clouds are thick. Our only hope for guidance is the Word of God. All else may mislead.

33:6-7

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

I remember those famous words spoken by Abraham Lincoln and I paraphrase: "I do not know how a man can gaze into the heavens on a clear night and not believe there is a God." The earth is a marvel. Just a simple, fourth-grade geography lesson is enough to cause one to marvel. From the same mouth that spoke the words written on the pages of the book called the Bible came the words that brought forth the creation. "And God said" is all it took for a magnificent universe

to appear. The breath in man is God's breath. The next time you fog a mirror, just remember God did that. The life in a bird, the life in a giraffe, and the life in every creature is the handywork of God. Amazingly, he accomplished it all with spoken words. He had no sponsor. He had no board of directors. He didn't even have a lead engineer or project manager.

Who is able to tell the quantity of water in the seas of the world? Certainly not man. Some men have made "guesstimates." However, God knows for he once had the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean and all the rest in the cup of his hand. What a God!

33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

Psalm 111:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.* People love knowledge, especially if it benefits them. A drug user disregards the danger of drugs because drugs are to his benefit. The smartest scientist, the smartest engineer, and the smartest astronomer is the one that fears God. The greatest obstacle confronting man in regard to fearing God is faith. Fearing God requires believing and trusting the unseen. That is not the logic of man. Men desire to see. Men desire to put their hands around things.

We are commanded to stand in *awe* of God. I once heard a great sermon entitled *Recovering Your Awe*. We have lost our awe. We are more impressed with the NFL that we are with God. Money impresses us. Television and Hollywood are awesome in the eyes of mankind. Yet, one day the NFL, Hollywood, and television will drop into the abyss of hell, then we will see who is impressed with what. We have an awesome God. It is time to restore our awe.

33:9

For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

“Light be” and light was. “Animals be” and animals were. God had no drawings of what he was about the create. He had no sponsor. He had no one to “bounce his ideas” off of. No one served as his advisor. God is sovereign, and he is self-sufficient.

Just as easily, as surely, and as quickly as he spoke all into being, he can utter the word and all will be annihilated. By the sovereign mind of God, this earth will go through seven years of great tribulation. It will die a slow, tormenting death. This does not have to be. One millisecond and all could be gone, but God has other plans. Planet earth is destined for a long and agonizing cleansing.

33:10-12

The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Though it seems hard to imagine, someday there will be no United States. Someday, there will be no Soviet Union. The nation China will no longer exist. The Soviet Union and China have a combined population of more than one billion. They are atheist nations, at least for now. One day when it is too late, they will bend the knee. Their tongue will confess the kingship of Jesus Christ.

China boast of having the largest standing army among all nations. This is their *device*. The Soviet Union boast of military technology and great capabilities of their missile systems. This is their *device*. When God is finished, there will be no Chinese army and no Soviet missile system. *Devices* of the nations will be of *none effect*.

Verse 12 contains a great promise: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*. The United States of America is the greatest nation in all history of nations. No nation has ever come close to the ingenuity and productivity of this country. America feeds a great portion of the world. America sends out more Gospel to the world than any other nation. Our founding fathers honored God. Thus, God has

blessed this country above all nations. I am deeply sorrowful for what we are now doing toward God. As a nation, we are mistreating God grossly. There are only two reasons I can think of that allowed God to bring another sunrise to America this morning. One, there is a remnant living in America. Secondly, God is merciful and longsuffering. One day soon, the remnant will be moved to a safe place, and the longsuffering of God will be exhausted. Calamity awaits. Are you saved?

33:13-19

The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. 14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. 15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. 16 There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. 17 An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; 19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

These seven verses speak regarding the demise of the nations. God sees men from heaven, as stated in verse 13 and 14. In verse 15, we learn all men are the same in God's eyes for he looks on the heart of men. God doesn't see you as six-foot tall or five-foot tall. He doesn't see you as 200 pounds or 100 pounds. He sees each person's *heart*. There is a second thing he sees, as stated in verse 15, and that is your *works*. If your heart is right, your works will be right. If your heart is right, your dress will cover your body, and your mouth will speak righteous words.

Verse 16 speaks of the fall of the leaders of nations. Where is Stalin? Where is Hitler? Where is Mussolini? When God moves his hand of judgment, verse 16 tells us no leader has an army that can protect their king. The strongest man will fall. The mightiest horse cannot carry its' rider to safety.

33:20-22

Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

God is about to interfere with history. Help is on the way for God's children! While we wait for God to act, he is our help and our shield, verse 20. The saints alive today is God's remnant. God will watch over his remnant. His people will win.

The word *hope* in verse 22 means *to wait*. The stock market has crashed and may do so again. The U.S. government is not too large to fail. However, God has never had a crash, and he has never failed. He has an unblemished record. His record will remain unblemished.