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Psalm 33

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the
Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 33.

Topics.

- Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre and sing songs of praise.
- God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the love of God.
- Let the earth stand in awe of the LORD, he spoke, and it came to be.
- God sits enthroned in heaven he looks out on the inhabitants of earth.
- The eye of God is on those who fear him and hope in his steadfast love.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 33:1-4

A Maskil of David.

Give thanks to the LORD with the Lyre and Sing Praise.

- **Psalm 33:1-4:** Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.
²Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
³Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁴For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

Many years ago, I was in a church who believed to have musical instruments in a church worship service was sinful, clearly these verses show that David didn't think this way and God said of David: -

- I have sought out David a man after my own heart, and commanded him to be prince over his people. (1 Sam. 13:14).

And Paul after the reading from the Law and the Prophets said:

- God raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." (Acts 13:22-23).

The congregations of these churches did sing, but without musical instruments, sadly these congregations were robbed of the full joy of the LORD'S presence in music of praise. It is true that certain song leaders and ministers can use music to manipulate the mind of their congregations to give far more money to the church than is wise and to manipulate them to fulfil their own goals and dreams, but if we work on the principle some might abuse God's gifts so it is better to abolish them

altogether, we should apply this same principal to teaching God's word since there are those who twist and distort the Scripture to appeal to self, ego and pride so they can grow a greater religious empire. Everything can be abused; this is why Jesus said:

- Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. (Matt 7:15-16).

And why Paul said to his followers:

- I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. (Acts 20:29).

There will always be false teachers who are more interested in the fame, power and worldly riches and wealth amongst the global body of Christ, until the King of the Kingdom returns in glory. Until that time Paul tells the beloved in Christ to:

- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. (Philip. 2:12-16).

Simply put Paul is saying take the responsibility for our own eternal destination, don't switch our minds off when we enter the church door and leave logic, reasoning, intellect outside. Always be like the brothers and sisters at Berea who listened to Paul with an open and eager mind, but afterwards gathered together in groups at home to check out what he had taught them, and they are not only commended for doing so, but also spoken of as being nobler than many others in the faith. (Acts 17:10-11). For further information concerning Musical Instruments see the title: "Music (Should Churches have Musical Instruments), in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Praise befits the upright (v1) for the following three reasons:

- It is spiritually healthy to the mind, the imagination, the emotions and the nervous system of the body and its overall well-being to be in an atmosphere of joyful praise with others of the same faith.
- God favours those who have a heart that is filled with love and a mind that has a zealous passion for Him
- Those who praise God will make up His treasured possession in the eternal Kingdom to come.

PSALM 33:5

God Loves Righteousness and Justice; the Earth is Full of His Love.

- **Psalm 33:5:** He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

This means that God loves those who do what is right and treat others fairly.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show what the LORD loves beyond all other things, including worship and praise is men and women doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt. No matter how beautiful our voice or how talented we are at playing musical instruments our worship will count for nothing if we are deliberately doing harm to others. Even the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm.

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

JESUS FAMOUS SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

1. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD (v5) carries the following two ideas.
2. Creation is full of beauty and wonders that all are able to enjoy.

Every act of love, charity, kindness and compassion performed in the world is a reflection of the LORD whether the person performing such and act is a believer or not. This is because God is love and any act of love is a reflection of God's Spirit.

John in his letters wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

This does not mean that everyone who shows love to others is saved to eternal life, but it does mean that they are a reflection of God's Spirit on earth.

Let Earth Stand in Awe of the LORD, He Spoke, and it came to Be.

- **Psalm 33:6-9:** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ⁷He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Here is the awesome power of the invisible, immortal, Almighty, the God of all creation and the source of all life. Hundreds of books are written to prove God created and debates continue around the world, but no faithful brother and sister needs to read so many books to gain an understanding of creation before they are accepted by God. Certainly, if that is their interest it is a good thing, but all any of us have to do to be accepted by God is believe these few words of David.

The author of Hebrews tells us:

- By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. (Heb. 11:3).

No one need spend days and weeks studying creation to prove God created, all we are called to do is believe by faith that God did create.

PSALM 33:10-15

God sits Enthroned in Heaven; He looks on Inhabitants of Earth.

- **Psalm 33:10-15:** The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. ¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! ¹³The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; ¹⁴from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

No faithful brother and sister in Christ should fear the fall of a nation or the lies and deceit of its governments, but rather trust that God has the nations in the palm of his hand. Years ago, I saw a cartoon in an Australian News Paper that very clearly pictured God's sovereign power in one simple picture. Two leaders of a most powerful nation were standing at the edge of a cliff admiring the magnificent view. With cigars in their hands they were boasting of what nation they will conquer tomorrow, behind them was a massive hand with its finger ready to flick them off the cliff. Though it may seem the world is in chaos God has an eternal plan and for reasons we don't understand has a purpose for allowing, the nations to continue, but a day will come when God will flick His finger and on that great and terrible day the faithful who endured to the end will be rewarded and the wicked judged.

PSALM 33:16-17

The eye of God is on those who Fear Him and Hope in His Love.

- **Psalm 33:16-17:** The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

David is saying, that it matters not how powerful Kings and rulers maybe, how mighty their weapons of war and their armies are they have no power to save them to eternal life. This is why it is foolish for God's people to go to war to protect their faith and God's word, since no one can be saved

by war. Added to this God's word does not need protecting by human hands, it has survived generations of persecution and will continue to do so until the King and Saviour it reveals returns in glory and power.

PSALM 33:18-22

The Eye of God is on those who Fear Him and Hope in His Love.

- **Psalm 33:18-22:** Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD, He is our help and our shield. ²¹For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

The book of proverbs states: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Psalm 111:10) (Proverbs 1:7) for the following two reasons:

1. **It has an eternal role:** wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
2. **It has a role for the present moment:** the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, crime and wars in most countries.

False fear: is generated by the mind imagining and believing something terrible is about to happen in the future or imagining something is real and true that is not true. These kinds of fears produce real fearful feelings in the emotions even though the fears are fantasies of the mind. This is because our nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real event and a false event that is played out on the screen of our imagination and therefore our emotions respond according to the mental movies we play in our minds whether they are real or false.

Real fear: is fear that is generated by something real such as a family who loses their house in a bush fire and fear having absolutely nothing and no-where to live, or fear of jumping off a cliff and being hurt and such like things. These are very real and justifiable fears. Those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand God's great love and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love he has for her dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with those who belong to the Lords global family.

We trust in God's Holy name: (v21) to shut the door on fear we need to have the same great faith that Job and Habbakuk expressed in the following words:

- Though he slay me, I will hope in him. (Job 13:15).
- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

After observing mankind, the author of Ecclesiastes gave the following advice to those who choose to deny God and live for themselves:

- Eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which they toil under the sun the few days of their life that God has given them, for this is their lot. (Eccles. 5:18).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace