

PSALMS 33

EXHORTATION TO PRAISE GOD (1-3)

{33:1} Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. {2} Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. {3} Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

This Psalms begins in the manner of which the previous Psalm ended: a call to give voice to the joy we have in the Lord. The motivation for such singing should be spiritual and not carnal. One would hope that since the exhortation is to the “upright” that such praise would be rightly motivated. If we are not careful, we can be guilty of singing praises to God as a performance for which we expect recognition instead of a spontaneous expression of joy that wells up from within us. It must start with gladness in our spirit, which stirs our emotions and stimulates our minds and motivates our will to give expression to the joy that comes from the Spirit of God..

The greatest music man has ever penned comes from inspiration in considering the greatness of God and the words of holy scripture. In the creation, God brought order out of chaos and in music the writer creates harmony out of what otherwise would simply be noise. God’s creation is an on-going thing. Regarding the creation, the angels proclaim (Revelation 4:11) “for Thy pleasure they were and are created.” God would encourage us to continue to be creative in new songs and to do it with excellence and joyful vigor.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE EXCELLENCY OF HIS CHARACTER (4-5)

{4} For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. {5} The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love (mercy).

The words of the Lord and the actions of God are the expressions of His character. The topics of our songs can be found in the word of the Lord and in His creation. His faithfulness and His love (expressed in righteousness and justice and mercy) are evident to all who would hear and see.

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MAJESTY IN CREATION (6-7)

{6} By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. {7} He gathers the waters of the sea into jars (heaps); he puts the deep into storehouses.

The word of the Lord is powerful -- it cause things to be created! If we want to be creative and cause things to happen for good, then the word of the Lord should always be on our lips. The kind of music that is pleasing to God is orderly (just as His creation is orderly). The earth has depths and heights and this is good. If it were perfectly smooth, then every thing would be underwater.

AWESOMENESS OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE (8-12)

{8} Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. {9} For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

We stand in awe of the might God Who created all things just by speaking them into existence and yet He has regard for us and loves us.

{10} The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. {11} But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. {12} Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.

We cannot expect to succeed unless we plan and operate according to God’s will. His plans will be fulfilled. The execution of the plans of God are carried out by nations and by individuals and by His church. If we have aligned ourselves with God and have responded to His call to come out from the world system to be His, then we will enjoy the blessings He has in store for those who belong to Him.

CONTRASTING GOD’S STRENGTH TO MAN’S WEAKNESS (13-19)

{13} From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; {14} from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-- {15} he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

Most do not consider God in what they plan. They think God doesn’t care or even know what they do. However, the Lord is totally aware of even the slightest things. Jesus told us even the hairs on our head are numbered.

{16} No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. {17} A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. {18} But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, {19} to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

Whatever man can do in his own strength will never be enough for every situation. The only hope we have that is totally sufficient is in the promises of God who offers salvation to us for every situation in life and in death.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND EARNEST PRAYER

{20} We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. {21} In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. {22} May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

One of the tests of our faith is in our ability to have patience for God to act. This is especially true when it comes to things we think we have strength to do for ourselves. Our tendency is to do it for ourselves when God has

delayed His action.