

Psalm 33 is a very unique psalm for two distinct reasons:

- 1) Psalm 33 features no superscription telling us about the writer of circumstance;
- 2) Psalm 33 is called a “new” song. **33:3**

Now many conclude that the reason for the lack of a superscription is due to the fact that this psalm is connected to Psalm 32, in which David describes the blessed state he was in because his sins had been forgiven (i.e. 32:1).

The concept of a psalm being a “new song” is one found multiple times in Psalms and also multiple times in the Bible: 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Is. 42:10; Rev. 5:9; 14:3. In analyzing these passages we may assume that a new song may be sung from one’s heart when one has experienced personal deliverance and also one has the hope of prophetic deliverance.

GOD’S PEOPLE SHOULD WORSHIP GOD, PRAISE GOD AND THANK GOD FOR WHO HE IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE AND WHAT HE WILL DO.

Each and every one of us can praise God for deliverances we have experienced from Him. We may always praise God for the fact that He has extended to us His grace and mercy and has delivered us from sin and condemnation. We may praise God for personal deliverances we have experienced in our lifetime. We may praise God for the future deliverance we will have in eternity. There is much for which we may praise God and that is what God wants us to do. He wants us singing to Him and praising Him.

Now God wants His people joyfully praising Him and he wants his people “singing in the rain” great praises to Him and this psalm promotes that. There are three main themes that are presented in this psalm:

THEME #1 – The righteous will worship God. **33:1-7**

There are two main points that are made here:

Point #1 - How the righteous should worship. **33:1-3**

We need to carefully observe from **verse 1** that it is only the righteous ones and upright ones who are in a position to truly worship God in an acceptable way. This worshipful rejoicing is “in the Lord.” We will not offer real joyful worship by looking to ourselves or our possessions or our sins. In fact, when we look at any of these places we cannot be joyful. Joyful worship is found “in the LORD.” Augustine said, “Rejoice not in yourselves, for that is not safe, but in the Lord.”

Now the kind of worship God wants contains five elements:

(Element #1) - Righteous worship features joyful singing. **33:1a**

(Element #2) - Righteous worship features becoming praise. **33:1b**

Praise that is becoming to the Lord comes from people who are upright in their life.

(Element #3) - Righteous worship features giving thanks. **33:2a**

True worshipful people are thankful people.

(Element #4) - Righteous worship uses proper instruments. **33:2b**

The instruments here offered beautiful rich sound. The “harp of ten strings” offered a rich sound like an organ.

(Element #5) - Righteous worship uses skillful music. **33:3b**

Spurgeon said God deserves the best we have. When we gather for worship, people who are skilled in music should be playing the instruments.

Point #2 - Why the righteous should worship God. **33:4-7**

There are six reasons why God’s people should worship God:

(Reason #1) - Because of the Word of God. **33:4a**

All ways that are upright are found in the Word of God. If you want to live life in an upright way—obey it.

(Reason #2) - Because of all the work of God. **33:4b**

God’s Word is faithful and true and everything God says He will do, He will do.

(Reason #3) - Because of the love of God. **33:5a**

God specifically loves righteousness and justice. God loves to uphold righteousness and justice. He loves it when righteous and just decisions are made.

(Reason #4) - Because of the mercy of God. **33:5b**

The earth is full of a demonstration of the “mercy” or “lovingkindness” of God. Even in a desert there are places where life may drink water.

Any true scientific observation made by an astronomer, a geologist, a botanist, a chemist or naturalist will confirm this point.

(Reason #5) - Because of the creation of God. **33:6**

One of the most detestable things anyone can do is to try and take God out of His creation. God's creation should worship and honor God. The majestic power of God is seen in the fact that the "heavens" and "all their host" which includes angels were made simply by the breath of God.

(Reason #6) - Because of the sovereignty of God. **33:7**

God controls all aquatic things. He could flood the world with water if He wanted and had promised He would not do it again. To God, the seas are nothing more than water in a bottle.

These are six powerful reasons for righteous people to worship God.

THEME #2 – The whole world should reverence God for His sovereignty. **33:8-19**

No matter what we face, we should fear God because all creation is sovereignly controlled by Him. We need not fear the creation; we need to fear the creator.

There will come a day when "all" the inhabitants of the earth and the world will in fact "fear" God and stand in "awe" of God. Unfortunately for them it will take the Great Tribulation to bring them to this point and unfortunately for them it will be too late for them to repent. There are at least five reasons why every person in the world should stand in awe of God:

(Reason #1) - Because of the sovereign power of God's Word. **33:9**

When God commands something to be done, it is done. Spurgeon said a happy man is one who has learned to lean upon God's Word and promises.

(Reason #2) - Because of the sovereign power of God over nations and people. **33:10**

Back during the days of the Reformation, two kings—Henry the 8th of England and Ludovicus of Hungry—wrote things that attacked Martin Luther and his teaching. The people of these nations became curious so they started investigating what Luther was teaching and as a result millions came to faith in Jesus Christ. God actually nullified and frustrated the plans of two nations and two political leaders.

(Reason #3) - Because of the sovereign program of God that stands forever. **33:11**

No power in the world can stop or stand in the way of the sovereign plan of God.

(Reason #4) - Because of the sovereign blessings of God given to His elect nation and people. **33:12**

Now there is a distinct reference to Israel in this verse and a distinct reference to people other than Israel. But what both have in common is the election of God.

(Reason #5) - Because of what God sovereignly sees and sovereignly knows. **33:13-19**

There is a remarkable listing of five things God sovereignly sees and knows here:

Sovereign Listing #1 - God sees every human from His throne in heaven. **33:13-14**

God is not some deistic absentee landlord, He sees and knows and monitors everyone.

Sovereign Listing #2 - God has fashioned the heart of every human. **33:15a**

The heart of every human being is in the hand of God.

Sovereign Listing #3 - God sees all works of humans and motives behind their works. **33:15b**

God reveals that He understands everything about everyone. He sees what is without and within. He understands every work and the value of it. He judges between appearances and reality.

Sovereign Listing #4 - God controls who actually wins battles. **33:16-17**

Victory is not determined by a mighty army, by great strength or by the weaponry. Victory is determined by God. **It is not the size of an army that determines victory, it is strength from heaven.**

Sovereign Listing #5 - God favors those who fear Him and depend on Him for salvation. **33:18-19**

God sees every person and He will only favor certain persons. God favors and blesses those who fear Him and reverence Him and His Word. He will also favor those who keep their hope in His mercy and grace.

People who trust in themselves will never have the favor of God. People who live by their codes and not by God's Word will never have the favor of God.

THEME #3 – The righteous should always look to God and talk to God. **33:20-22**

Since God is so sovereign, it stands to logical reason that we will look to Him.

Reality #1 - We look to God and wait on God. **33:20**

We need to always remember that the Lord is our help and shield.

Reality #2 - We find our joy in God. **33:21a**

Notice the joy in our hearts is not found in our circumstances but in the Lord. When a person is in a state of depression, something is wrong in their relationship with God.

Reality #3 - We should trust in God. **33:21b**

God will not fail those who trust Him and who are faithful to Him. It doesn't matter how much they are outnumbered. God is the sovereign God who controls everything.

Reality #4 - We should pray to God totally depending on His grace. **33:22**

Acknowledging that we are totally trusting and hoping in the Lord and relying upon His mercy and grace is something God loves to hear from His people.