

THRU THE BIBLE EXPOSITION

Psalms: God's Nurture Of The Inner Man In The Life Of Faith

XXXIII. Praising God For His Provision Of Stability In His Word And Work

(Psalm 33:1-22)

I. Introduction

- A. We are witnessing decreasing levels of dependability in people, and it produces a growing instability in many human institutions and leaves many individuals suffering from insecurity.
- B. Accordingly, we need a Rock of Dependability that counters all such instability and its resulting insecurity, and Psalm 33:1-22 offers praise to the Lord as the Ultimate Answer to this need (B. K. C., O. T., p. 819):

II. Praising God For His Provision Of Stability In His Word And Work, Psalm 33:1-22.

- A. We translate Psalm 33:1-22 as follows:
 - 1. "Sing joyfully to Jahweh, you righteous ones; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him," Psalm 33:1.
 - 2. "Give praise to Jahweh with a harp; make music to Him on a ten-stringed lyre," Psalm 33:2.
 - 3. "Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy," Psalm 33:3.
 - 4. "Because the Word of Jahweh is straightforward, upright (*yashar*, B. D. B., A Hewb.-Eng. Lex. of the O. T., p. 449), and all He does, makes (*asa*, Ibid., p. 793-795; Kittel, Bib. Heb., p. 1001; H. A. W., Theol. Wrdbk. O. T., 1980, v. II, p.701-702) is reliable (*'emuna*, Ibid., B. D. B., p. 53; Ibid., H. A. W., v. I, p. 52; this noun as used of God expresses His "total dependability," Ibid.), Psalm 33:4.
 - 5. "He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of Jahweh's loyal love," Psalm 33:5.
 - 6. "By the Word of Jahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all of their starry hosts," Psalm 33:6.
 - 7. "He gathers the waters of the sea into a heap; He puts the deep into storehouses," Psalm 33:7.
 - 8. "Let all the earth fear Jahweh; let all who dwell on the earth revere Him," Psalm 33:8.
 - 9. "Because He spoke and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm," Psalm 33:9.
 - 10. "Jahweh foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples," Psalm 33:10.
 - 11. "The plans of Jahweh stand firm forever; the purposes of His heart through all generations," Psalm 33:11.
 - 12. "Blessed is the nation whose Elohim is Jahweh, the people He chose for His inheritance," Psalm 33:12.
 - 13. "From the heavens Jahweh looks down and sees all of the sons of men," Psalm 33:13.
 - 14. "From His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth," Psalm 33:14.
 - 15. "He Who forms the hearts of all, Who considers all they do," Psalm 33:15.
 - 16. "No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength," Psalm 33:16.
 - 17. "The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all of its great strength it cannot save," Psalm 33:17.
 - 18. "Behold! The eyes of Jahweh are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His loyal love," Psalm 33:18.
 - 19. "To rescue their life principles from death, and to keep them alive in famine," Psalm 33:19.
 - 20. "Our life principles wait for Jahweh; He (emph. pron.) is our Help and our Personal, Hand-held Shield (*magen*, Ibid., B. D. B., p. 171; R. DeVaux, Anc. Israel: V. I - Soc. Insts., 1965, p. 244-245)," Psalm 33:20.
 - 21. "For in Him our hearts rejoice; because we trust in His holy Name," Psalm 33:21.
 - 22. "May Your loyal love be upon us, Jahweh, as we put our hope in You!" (Psalm 33:22)
- B. Key observations about this psalm in view of its cultural setting helps us to understand its importance today:
 - 1. The psalmist called his listeners greatly to praise the Lord (Psa. 33:1-3) for His Word is straightforward, upright, all He does and makes is utterly reliable (Psa. 33:4), He loves righteousness and justice and the earth is full of His loyal love (Psa. 33:5). This view sharply contrasts with that of ancient pagan man who feared and was a slave to capricious and often hostile gods, B. K. Waltke, Creation and Chaos, 1974, p. 65.
 - 2. The rest of the psalm expands on this theme in Psalm 33:4-5 as follows:
 - a. God's Word called into being the fixed order the universe (Psalm 33:6-9) opposite paganism that held the universe was always in danger of being annihilated (Ibid., p. 57)
 - b. God thus sovereignly rules over the nations as unmovable, upright Judge and the Sure Savior of all who trust in Him (Psalm 33:10-22), the Provider of security in a world of great spiritual sin and insecurity.

Lesson: May we praise God for His utterly dependable Word and Works of righteousness, justice and loyal love.

Application: Let us praise God for His great, sovereign, upright stability and trust Him for all our security needs.