

Sing A New Song Psalm 33:1-22

Turn in your Bibles this morning to **Psalm 33**. If your Bible has headings or titles at the beginning of each Psalm, you may notice that your translation may not have one. Some scholars believe it is an extension of **Psalm 32** as **verse 11** seems to tie in with **verse 1**. “**Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.**”

Our hymnbook is laid out with some transitions from one song to another. The editors compiled it in such a way that some songs can naturally segue into the next song as a continuation of praise. For example, turn in your hymnal to #4 – *Praise the Savior*. You will notice at the bottom of the song it says optional segue to #5 *I Sing Praises*.

It's the same with #20 – *Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praise* as it segues into #21 – *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*.

Psalm 33 has a natural segue from **Psalm 32** in this continuing anthem of praising God.

From **Psalm 33:1-3**, let's consider first God and His praise.

I. GOD AND HIS PRAISE – vv. 1-3

Are you a thankful person?

In **Romans 1**, Paul says that God's wrath is being revealed against all godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth because even though they know God by what has been revealed about Him through creation, they refuse to glorify Him as God, nor do they give Him thanks. (**Rom. 1:18-21**)

Later on, while Paul is in a prison cell penning letters to various churches, he wrote to the Philippians (**4:4**) to rejoice always and then to the Thessalonians to always be joyful giving thanks in all circumstances. Why? Because it's God's will (**1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18**). James adds that whenever we fall into trials of any kind, we are to consider it with pure joy (**James 1:2-3**).

David was someone who knew all about hardship, but he also counters it with praise. In **verse 1** he states that we are to be thankful in our praise.

A. We Are To Be Thankful In Our Praise – v. 1

So I ask you again, are you a truly thankful person?

Oh, we're thankful when our bank account has money or when the doctor's visit results in a good checkup, or we don't have any cavities. We're thankful when the sun is shining, and we don't have to shovel snow.

But how about when the washing machine goes on the fritz, or when we get rear ended by the driver behind us not paying attention, or when you're laid up for two weeks in quarantine from COVID. Carl is the only person I know who was glad for COVID because a follow up doctor visit showed a spot on his lung.

David begins by saying that we should sing joyfully to the Lord. First of all, let's remember who it is we are singing to. When we take a glance back at **Psalm 32** we see ample reason to be joyful.

Our transgressions are forgiven.

Our sins are covered.

Our iniquities are not held against us.

God sent a redeemer to pay for our sin.

God offers us eternal life by confessing our sins and believing in Christ as Savior.

We have an advocate who brings our requests to Him.

We have the Holy Spirit who teaches us, who seals us till the day of redemption.

Count your blessings.

I have met some joyful people along this journey we call life. I think my Mom, was one of those people who was thankful in all her many trials and she expressed it in her talk, in her walk, in her character. Oh, she had her moments, but generally speaking, she was a joyful person and it showed and other people wanted to be around her. People loved her. There was one weekend Ladies retreat at camp and my brother and I went home for the weekend. Sunday after dinner we were getting ready to head back to

college and we had to stand in line to say good-bye to our own mother because the line of women wanting to talk to her was long. She was the kind of person who took the lemons of life and made lemonade, and lemon bars, and lemon cookies, and lemon meringue pie. And she took to heart what David said and she sang joyfully to the Lord. She had so much to be thankful for and she let the Lord know.

Are you a thankful person? It ought to show in your singing. I think we get so familiar with a song, that we lose our expressiveness and joy. David says in **verse 1** that it is fitting for the upright to praise God. Upright doesn't refer to those who follow a moral compass and try to be a good person. It refers to someone who is right with God.

When we consider who God is and all that He has done for us, it is right and proper to praise Him. John invites us into an experience he had as he explains a heavenly scene in **Revelation 4:11** that he is privileged to witness as the worshippers around the throne repeat their anthem of praise: **“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.”**

My dad enjoyed singing. When he was young, they didn't have a radio in the car so to pass the time they would sing. When he got saved, he loved singing in the choir. But for a while something irritated him. The guy standing next to him only had one note and he was loud. One day my dad came to the realization that his fellow choir member was there for the same reason – to sing to the Lord. After that, dad could sing joyfully.

The literal reading of this verse is **“Ring out your joy all you upright in heart.”** When you sing, let your voice be enthusiastic. Don't shortchange your praise to God. Be joyful. Don't just repeat words.

The 1980's music act Milli Vanilli may not sound familiar to you. The duet became known for pretending to sing by lip-synching their music. The music would play from a recording while they moved their lips in time with the music blaring out of the loudspeakers. They were busted when the recording they were “singing” to, began to skip.

I wonder how many lip-synching Christians there are in the church who just mouth the words but aren't singing joyfully because maybe their heart isn't right with God. Or maybe it's because of being preoccupied with something else instead of focusing on the Lord. Before we sing our praise, let's start with a time of confession.

Warren Wiersbe writes **“Only those who are righteous by faith and obedient in their walk can sincerely worship the Lord...A sinner who has been saved by grace ought to have no problem praising the Lord.”**

“Rejoice in the Lord, O you [uncompromisingly] righteous [you upright in right standing with God]; for praise is becoming and appropriate for those who are upright [in heart].” (Amplified)

David says we are to be thankful in our praise. David then says we are to be thorough in our praise.

B. We Are To Be Thorough In Our Praise – v. 2

The verbs in this verse are plural indicating that it involved all worshippers not just a soloist. Accompanying this multitude of singers were instruments.

Recall that when David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem that he assigned the Levites to various musical responsibilities. Some were to be singers. They were gifted in leading the congregation in singing. Others were assigned to play instruments to accompany the singers. He includes here the harp and ten stringed instruments. Elsewhere in Scripture we read about trumpets, tambourines, bells, and cymbals all being used in praising God.

I enjoy hearing the variety of instruments used by other cultures as they sing their praises to the Lord. I believe David is telling us not to limit ourselves in what we use or how we express our thanks. Explore and express ways to praise God. Think about nature and how everything has been made to give praise. From the croak of a frog to the tweet of a chickadee to the bleating of a lamb to the mooing of the cow or the shriek of a hawk or the sound of leaves rustling, everything in nature echoes and adds its

voice of praise. We shouldn't limit ourselves in our expression of thanks, but the focus isn't to be the instruments or even the voices. The focus is to be God and the great things He has done.

We are to be thankful in our praise.
We are to be thorough in our praise.
We are to be thoughtful in our praise.

C. We Are To Be Thoughtful In Our Praise – v. 3

This past week I was watching a portion of a broadcast by The Voice of Martyrs. The title of the broadcast was "I am N". N stands for Nazarene. It was the symbol etched on doors and homes of Christians who live in predominantly run Muslim nations so that they could be targeted for persecution. The broadcast was intended to bring to light the many in those countries being persecuted for their faith in Christ.

Heather Mercer was one of those who shared her testimony of persecution as she along with seven other international workers were held captive by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001 in the months leading up to the 9/11 terrorist attacks here in the US. They were tried by the Afghani supreme court for crimes against Islam for proselytizing.

She said there were many days they were interrogated for 8-10 hours. Through it she said that she and her colleagues would sit in their cell and remember specific Scripture passages and from them they would make a new song and sing it. Those songs and Scriptures helped them endure their captivity until they were rescued.

John Phillips writes "A new song calls for thought and exercise, for skill and careful composition...the word for 'a new song' in the original suggests a song never heard before. That calls for thought. Our thoughts about God should ever be exploring new frontiers of wonder and awe and should ever be expressing themselves in new [joyous tributes] of praise."

David says in **verse 3** that we are to sing a new song to the Lord. To play skillfully and shout for joy. I love the time-tested classic hymns. They are rich in theology and robust in style. The blend of harmony

expressed through the four parts of soprano, alto, tenor, and base lends to the beauty of the musical score. They should not be swept away and forgotten. But I also love some of the new songs by a new generation of passionate and enthusiastic worshipers. Their style may differ from traditional hymns, but their message still resonates from hearts that adore the same God. And regardless of our age, or the generation in which we grew up, or the culture in which we live, we are all invited to be thankful, and thorough, and thoughtful in our praise of God. The more we experience God, the more new songs we should write and sing.

While **verses 1-3** speak about God and His praise, **verses 4-9** tell us why we should praise Him. In these verses we notice God and His power.

II. GOD AND HIS POWER – vv. 4-9

We should never doubt the power of God to do what He says He will do. That's what we learn from **verse 4**.

A. God's Power Is Evident In His Faithful Word – v. 4

Think about these events in Biblical history. In **Genesis 18:14** after Sarah had laughed at the message from the heavenly visitors, Abraham was told in the hearing of Sarah that nothing was too hard for the Lord.

In **Luke 1:37** when Mary wondered how she as a virgin could become pregnant, the angel told her that nothing is impossible with the Lord.

After Jesus interacted with a rich man essentially telling him that he hadn't kept the law like he thought, the disciples wondered who could be saved. Jesus said in **Matthew 19:26** that with God all things are possible.

Numbers 23:19 tells us that what God says He will do. He doesn't lie because as David says in **verse 4**, God's word is faithful and true. He keeps His word 100% of the time because He is truthful and there is power in His word to do what He says. It is by His word that He governs everything. His word is good and ordered not devious and chaotic.

His word is powerful in that it sets a moral compass for us to follow that will guide us into right living. His Word can be trusted because it is steadfast, reliable, and honest. Because of that there is power in His faithful word. He not only says what He does, He does what He says because He has the power to do it.

God's word says He has the power to save you.
 God's word says He has the power to secure you.
 God's word says He has the power to sanctify you.
 Trust Him to do what He says in you and through because He is faithful in His word.

B. God's Power Is Evident In His Flawless Love – v. 5

His **“unfailing love”** means it will never change, it will never end. It is certain, reliable, dependable, trustworthy, constant, consistent, abiding, and lasting. He will never change His mind about you. His love will never waver or diminish. He will never withhold His love for you.

Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.’”

The Hebrew meaning of this phrase ‘loving-kindness’ can be translated ‘continuous love.’ **Have you ever wondered some days why God loves you? What does God see in me that He would love me so?** When God knew you in eternity past, He saw you and loved you. When He looks into what for us would be our future, He still loves you the same. We are reminded from **I John 4:10** that God loved us first.

Romans 5:8 says that God's love is demonstrated through the sending of His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin.

John 3:16 states that His love for the world was so great He sent Jesus so that those who believe on Him would not perish but have everlasting love.

He left the Splendor of Heaven
 Knowing His destiny
 Was the lonely hill of Golgotha
 there to lay down His life for me.
 If that isn't love
 the ocean is dry

there's no stars in the sky
 and the sparrow can't fly
 if that isn't love
 then Heavens a myth
 there's no feeling like this
 if that isn't love

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God's love comes from His nature. It is therefore flawless, perfect. It is unconditional, selfless, and eternal and we are the recipients of that powerful love that draws us to Himself to be saved and experience His love.

His mercy stems from His love.

His grace stems from His love.

His forgiveness stems from His love.

His compassion, protection, provision, and so much more all stem from this flawless love. His flawless love is reason to express our praise to Him.

Then in **verses 6-9** David points out how God's power is evident in His fashioned creation.

C. God's Power Is Evident In His Fashioned Creation – vv. 6-9

The power in God's spoken word is clearly evident in **Genesis 1** – **“God said ‘Let there be...’** and whatever He spoke came into existence.

Psalm 33:6 “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.”

John 1:3 “Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

Everything we see was spoken into existence by God. Nothing came into being without His powerful word in creating it.

My car didn't come into existence without someone designing it. They didn't just speak it into existence. The same with the chair you are sitting in or the roads we drive on. No one has the power to speak

and create something from nothing. Only God.

I like the imagery of these verses. Our baptistry holds something like 400 gallons of water. Let's say each of us were to come up and scoop a handful of water into our cupped hands. **How many people do you think it would take to drain the baptistry?** Now think for a moment that all the water on our planet God fits in a jar.

Isaiah 40:12 "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, or with the breadth of His hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?"

The span of my hand is 9 ¼". I amaze Robyn that I can quite accurately measure something by just using my hand. The observable universe is estimated to be 96 billion light years across and still expanding and God measures it with the span of His hand.

Now, if God has that kind of power, don't you think He has power to do for us what He promised? These verses tell us about God and His power. That power also includes His sovereign rule over the nations. In **verses 10-19** we see God and His providence.

III. GOD AND HIS PROVIDENCE – vv. 10-19

Verses 10-12 talk about the nations and their decisions.

A. The Nations and Their Decisions – vv. 10-12

We see three things in these verses.

We see the nations that rebel against God's word.

We see the nations that respond to God's word.

We see the nations and their destinies.

It is all too easy to look around the world, even in our own country and wonder how much more out of control things can get.

War between Russia and Ukraine.

War between Israel and the Gaza strip led by Hamas. Additionally, according to the world population review there are wars of various kinds in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Within our own borders whether it's Antifa

or the recent protests on college campuses, or the rise in crime in our major cities, we wonder what in the world is going on.

Add to that the global threat of potential nuclear armament in nations like North Korea and Iran and the possibility of global political unrest grows. Many nations like China, North Korea, and the Middle East have done their best to remove God from their borders through enacted laws. They make all kinds of plans to do this or that thinking that in their sovereign power they wield power to do whatever they want.

David says that the Lord foils the plans of the nations. He thwarts their purposes.

Psalm 37:12-13 "The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for He knows their day is coming."

Don't think for a moment that what we're seeing unfold around the world, that God doesn't notice or hasn't allowed. It's rightly been said that man proposes but God disposes. In other words, man can make all the plans he wants, but God's sovereign will and rule will override anything man can plan.

Isaiah 40:10, 15 "See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and His arm rules for Him. Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; He weighs the islands as though they were fine dust."

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do all things and that no plan of Yours can be thwarted."

His power extends to governments and leaders.

Daniel 2:21 "He sets up kings and deposes them."

He restrains them or lets them go according to what His plans are. In **John 19:11**, Jesus reminded Pilate that he had no power except it had been given by God. And even though He is all-powerful and hates evil, He still allows evil to happen, because in the end even it accomplishes His purpose.

Tony Evans writes **"The counsel and plans of menacing nations may strike fear into the hearts of humans, but they are nothing before God."**

The UN has **Isaiah 2:4** inscribed on its walls, but it should have **Psalms 33:10** there instead. Our nation needs **Psalms 33:12** “**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.**”

Recently, Louisiana became the first state to pass a law requiring every K-12 school and college to post the 10 commandments in every classroom. Following a short debate, House Bill 71 was passed by lawmakers in a 30-8 vote. We need God in America again.

Another reason to give praise to God, is because He is sovereignly in control of all nations. They conspire against Him, but He does not fear their plans, they are nothing to Him. But blessed, happy, prosperous is the nation whose God is the Lord. Like never before in our nation, we are seeing a greater threat to our freedom of worship, our expression of faith. We need to pray for a real revival in our land, a moving of God’s Spirit among people who will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked way (**II Chronicles 7:14**).

It is in **verses 13-19** that we see the nations and their destinies.

B. The Nations and Their Destinies – vv. 13-19

That God is in heaven watching all that goes on down here on earth shows both His authority and rule as well as His care for what is happening. His all-knowing eye sees everything, even the motives. The nations may hide behind their military might thinking that by the size of their military they can overpower other nations. But they pose no threat to God. Jehoshaphat knew the power of God to deliver him from a formidable foe. Hezekiah also knew the power of God when faced with the threat of an imposing army marching against them.

Let’s remember that as Israel trusted in God for deliverance, we can trust that same God believing that the nation whose God is the Lord will be blessed. His eye is on those who trust Him, those who hope in Him.

Let me close with God and His protection.

IV. GOD AND HIS PROTECTION – vv. 20-22

This is yet another reason for praising God.

In **verse 20** there is **help** from His protection.

In **verse 21** there is **happiness** from His protection.

In **verse 22** there is **hope** in His protection.

I keep coming back to these verses as a reminder of the hope we have in God’s help and the ensuing happiness we have when we trust Him.

Psalms 34:17-18 “**The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**”

Psalms 46:1 “**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.**”

David says we are to wait on the Lord. Tony Evans says that waiting doesn’t mean being idle. “**It’s to refuse to step out of His will to address your situation. By doing this you can have the confidence of experiencing His faithful love.**”

In these closing verses, David is reaffirming his faith in the Lord. But in waiting for Him to deliver, he is rejoicing in the expectation of God’s unfailing love. He provides the necessary means of protection for those who trust in Him. His unfailing love is a reason to trust Him and a reason for us to sing His praise.

There are 88 keys on a piano and 26 letters in the English alphabet giving us countless possibilities that can be put together to sing praise to God for all the ways He has provided for and protected us. Because of who He is and what He has done for us, let’s sing joyfully and while we’re at it, let’s sing a new song.

We have a lot to praise God for.

What kind of song are you singing to the Lord?

What kind of hope and trust do you have in the Lord?