

## Psalm 33

**Title:** Rejoice in the Lord

**Author and Date:** Anonymous (see Psalm 1, 2, and 10)

**Key Verses:** Psalm 33:1, 21

**Type:** Praise

### **Outline**

- A. Call to praise (verses 1-3).
- B. Causes for praise (verses 4-19).
- C. Complement of praise (verses 20-22).

### **Notes**

Verse 1: Note the words “rejoice, ye righteous” at the end of Psalm 32 and “Rejoice ... O ye righteous” at the beginning of Psalm 33. Some commentators believe that Psalm 33 is simply a continuation of Psalm 32. This would account for the anonymous authorship of Psalm 33 (the LXX ascribes it to David). In this case, David would have written both Psalm 32 and 33 together. The older versions read “Praise is comely” (verse 1). “Comely” means what is “becoming” (NASV), “fitting” (NIV, NLT, etc.) or “befitting” (ESV) of righteous people. It is proper and appropriate for the righteous to praise the Lord. Psalm 33 is a hymn of praise.

Verse 2: The “harp” and the “psaltery of ten strings” (or lyre) differed in shape and the number of strings (Psa. 144:9). Instruments of music in worship to God are authorized in the Old Testament (1 Chron. 15:16; 23:5; 2 Chron. 29:25; see Psalm 150 for the various instruments used). Singing without instruments is authorized in the New Testament (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

Verse 4: This verse begins the cause (“for”) portion of the psalm. Note the “word of the Lord” in verse 4 (divine omnipotence), the “counsel of the Lord” in verse 11 (divine omniscience), and the “eye of the Lord” in verse 18 (divine omnipresence).

Verse 5: “He loveth righteousness”. See Psa. 11:7. The “lovingkindness” (Heb. *khesed*) of the Lord (see also verse 22) is mentioned many times in the psalms (Psa. 18:50; 25:10; 32:10; etc.).

Verse 6: Creation is attributed to the word of the Lord, not to naturalistic evolution (Gen. 1:1-3; Psa. 148:5; Isa. 48:13; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3). The Lord’s word not only creates, but it also sustains what it creates (Psa. 147:15-18).

Verse 18: “The eye of Jehovah” is a reference to God’s providential and sovereign control over all things (Psa. 34:15; Prov. 5:21; 15:3; 1 Pet. 3:12).

Verses 20-22: Note the “our” and “we” in these verses. The psalmist speaks of what he and the righteous (verse 1) do with the Lord. To “wait” for the Lord is to hope and trust in the Lord (verses 18, 21, and 22).

## **Questions**

1. What does the psalmist call upon the righteous and upright to do concerning the Lord (verses 1-3)?
2. What is the word of the Lord and what does the Lord love (verses 4-5)?
3. What is made by the word of the Lord (verses 6-7)?
4. What does the psalmist call upon the inhabitants of the world to do and why (verses 8-9)?
5. What does the Lord do to the counsel of the nations and what does his own counsel do (verses 10-11)?
6. Who is blessed (verse 12)?
7. What does the Lord do from heaven (verses 13-14)?
8. What does the Lord consider (verse 15)?
9. What does not save and deliver (verses 16-17)?

10. Who is delivered and who does the delivering (verses 18-19)?

11. What do the psalmist and the righteous do with the Lord (verses 20-22)?

### **Applications for Today**

1. It is fitting for the righteous to praise the Lord because of his nature (verses 1-3). What do we use to praise the Lord in song today (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13)?
2. The word of the Lord is right and the Lord loves what is right (verses 4-5). What is God's word (Jn. 17:17)? What did Elymas try to pervert (Acts 13:8-10)? How are the ways, acts, and judgments of the Lord described in Revelation 15:3-4 and 16:7?
3. The creation of the universe was accomplished by the word of the Lord, not by naturalistic evolution (verses 6-9). What do we believe by faith about creation (Heb. 11:3)?
4. God will bring to naught the counsels of our national leaders if we do not make God the Lord of our nation (verses 10-12). What exalts a nation (Prov. 14:34)?
5. God is not detached from his creation. The Lord sees all our works (verses 13-15). What are we in the sight of God (Heb. 4:12-13)? What will we be judged by in the judgment day (Rom. 2:6; 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 11:15; 2 Tim. 4:14; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23; 18:6; 22:12-13)?
6. We must not trust in man or things (verses 16-17). Who does not save (Psa. 44:6; 60:11)? Who are we to place our confidence in (Psa. 20:7)?
7. We need to fear the Lord, hope in the Lord, and trust in the Lord (verses 18-22). What do we need to teach our children (Psa. 71:5)? Who does the Lord take pleasure in (Psa. 147:10-11)? What do Christians need to be ready to do (1 Pet. 3:15)?