

# **"His Holy Name"**

## **Psalm 33**

This is one of 34 psalms that have no title or superscription. We have seen three previous to this one: 1, 2, and 10. With some of the untitled psalms, it is fairly clear that they follow the previous one or they are in a group of other untitled psalms that have a particular purpose or reason. Some, as is the case with this one, seems to have no title or occasion given because of the nature of the psalm: it is a one that is meant to be dedicated to the LORD and "His holy name," and nothing is to detract from that, including a human author. There are some (including the Greek Septuagint) that give the author as David but that isn't necessarily reliable evidence.

This psalm is one of joy and praise - it begins with that tone and ends with the same and in between those notes of praise are seen in several distinct segments that demonstrate the power and authority of the God we serve.

Much of the text of this psalm is made up of basic synonymous parallelisms where the second line restates the first. This is very helpful in Hebrew poetry because it helps us see, as is the case in this psalm, the numerous ways God demonstrates His holiness and His goodness.

"His holy name" is very much in view in the stanzas of this psalm and it forms the basis for the outline we will consider.

### **I. REJOICE IN THE LORD - vs. 1-3**

- A. It's because of His holy name that we have anything about which to rejoice - and it is something for which we are to rejoice.**

- B. These three verses form the introduction to the psalm and give us very clear directives to rejoice in Him.
- C. The word for "rejoice" in verse one is not the usual one for "rejoice" in the Psalms. This one is most often seen in relation to singing, which is why it is used here. It carries the idea of shouting for joy, which is how it is translated in the last verse of the previous psalm.

## II. THE WORD OF THE LORD IS RIGHT - VS. 4-9

- A. Vs. 4 - because His word is "right" - it is worthy of universal belief because of its truth - "all his works are done in truth." It all hinges on His word.
- B. Vs. 5 - His love for righteousness (the principle of justice) and judgment (the application of His righteousness) are because His word is right and true, and it's because of this that the entire earth is "full of the goodness of the LORD."
- C. Vs. 6-9 - it was the power of His word that He created all there is. It is because of this that all the earth, all its inhabitants, are to fear the LORD, to "stand in awe of him" (a definition in this text of what it means to "fear the LORD").

## III. THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD STANDETH FOR EVER - VS. 10-12

- A. Notice the contrasting parallelism between verses 10 and 11, as well as the synonymous parallelism within each verse.
  - 1. "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen

to nought" - "The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever."

2. "He maketh the devices of the people of none effect" - "the thoughts [same Hebrew word as for devices in verse 10] of his heart to all generations" (that is, standeth forever to all generations).

**B. Verse 12 shows what happens when God's people rejoice in Him, when He is feared because of His word, and when His counsel is recognized and followed - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD."**

This may be speaking of Israel within the context of the psalm, and we need to be careful we don't over apply it to our nation today (or any nation for that matter), but we can still see the truth of this verse and the principles it teaches.

This isn't just true of nations but can be seen on a smaller scale as well: the family and the church. "Blessed is the church whose God is the Lord" and "Blessed is the family whose God is the Lord."

**IV. THE EYE OF THE LORD IS UPON THEM THAT FEAR HIM - vs. 13-19**

- A. Verses 13-15 speak to the truth that God not only created mankind, but He also is in control of what happens to all of mankind.**
- B. Verses 16-17 show that without the LORD, and His providential guidance in the affairs of people and nations, no amount of strength in numbers or power or weaponry (vs. 17) will matter if God isn't in the victory. History records many such**

**occurrences.**

- C. Verses 18-19 are given to encourage us to know that for those that fear the Lord, His “eye” shall them, leading and guiding them through the challenges and dangers of life.**

1 Peter 3:10-12

<sup>10</sup> For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

<sup>11</sup> Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

## **V. OUR SOUL WAITETH ON THE LORD - vs. 20-22**

- A. The holiness of God is mentioned 45 times in the book of Psalms and here it is connected with His name, showing that we can have absolute confidence as we wait patiently for the Lord to guide us through our life.**
- B. Verse 21 goes back to the first verse and the subject of rejoicing. This word is the normal one translated “rejoice” in the Old Testament and means to be joyful or glad. It describes the state or attitude of joy in our heart while the one in verse one is the outward expression of that inward attitude.**

**Both of those words are found in Psalm 5:11.**

Psalm 5:11-12

<sup>11</sup> But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let

them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them:  
let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

<sup>12</sup> For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour  
wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

**C. Verse 22 - the psalm ends with mercy and hope.  
As we follow the Lord and do His will, we can be  
assured that His mercy will always be there for us  
to fall upon, or to have it fall upon us.**

This verse also points back to the previous psalm  
and verse 10 where the subject of mercy is found.

Conclusion: This psalm is a beautiful hymn of praise and  
rejoicing for the righteous and steadfast nature of the God  
we serve. It demonstrates His power in creation, His  
sovereignty over nations, and His unwavering love and  
faithfulness.

The foundational attribute of God is found here relating to  
His name - "His holy name." Because of His holiness, we  
can rejoice in Him, we can trust His word, we can follow His  
counsel, we have His eye guiding us, and we can wait  
patiently for Him as He guides us.