



Studies in the Psalms

PSALM 33

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD

QUICK REVIEW

LESSON ONE

- » We must constantly seek the face of God

LESSON TWO

- » We must constantly listen carefully

LESSON THREE

- » We must constantly speak positively

LESSON FOUR

- » We must constantly worship God

ABOUT THIS PSALM

Psalms 33 is one of five psalms in the first book of Psalms (Psalms 1-42) that does not have a title. Psalm 33 touches on so many subjects, it is challenging to narrow it down to any one central theme. There is, however, one verse that seems to stand out as saying something very special, and that is verse 12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD." Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people."

AUTHOR

We cannot say for sure who wrote Psalm 33. We don't have to worry about that because actually God is the real author of every word written in the Bible anyway. There is a parallel passage however in II Chronicles 20 where we are given great information as to how to apply the truths presented in this Psalm to our personal lives today.

THEME

A general overview of Psalm 33 reveals many great Bible principles. Verse one says to, "Rejoice in the LORD." Verses 2 and 3 say, "Join in on the worship of God." Verse 3 also says, "Practice and become skillful at this." Verses 4 & 5 tell us that, "God is worth pursuing." Verses 6 through 9 tell us, "That Jehovah God is our creator." Verses 10 through 15 tell us, "That our God cannot be compared to anyone or anything else. He has no equal and He has no rival." Verses 16 through 22 tell us, "When God is on your side, the other side does not have a chance." (All quotes here are paraphrased)

As mentioned above, there is a parallel passage to Psalm 33 in II Chronicles 20. There we are told the story of a challenge faced by Judah during the time of the leadership of King Jehoshaphat. The Ammonites, the Moabites, and the Seirites had joined together and decided to try and take back the land that Israel had conquered from them during the time of Joshua. Throughout the chapter, one can see four powerful truths that Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah put into practice to defend themselves and to defeat the attacks of their enemies. ONE: They constantly sought the face of God. Regular and constant prayer is no doubt one of the most important things that any Christian needs to put into practice their entire life. TWO: Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah learned that God was able to show them exactly what to do if they would take the time to listen to Him. THREE: Jehoshaphat showed the people of Judah that they should always speak positive about the hope they had in God, regardless of their circumstances. FOUR: Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah worshiped God and stayed faithful no matter what the situation appeared to be. These same principles can be used by us as we face our own challenges today.



PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 33

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD

NOTE: FOR THIS PSALM WE WILL USE A PARALLEL TEXT FROM II CHRONICLES 20

II CHRONICLES 20:3,4,6: “Jehosaphat resolved himself to inquire of the LORD...” “the people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD.” “indeed they came from every town in Judah to seek Him...”

QUESTIONS

State the words, “Seek the LORD,” in your own words. What does a person do to get from the “fear stage” to the “seek the LORD stage?” What actual steps can be taken?

Agree/disagree: Pride (self-reliance) is the main thing that keeps us from prayer. Discuss your answers.

II CHRONICLES 20:14-15: “Then the spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel... he said, “Listen, King Jehosaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you, ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow go down against them. They will be coming up the pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.”

QUESTIONS

What is the first thing that God spoke to Jehoshaphat about (v. 14-15)? How did this help him?

When you are faced with a challenging situation that either overwhelms your resources or is simply more than you can handle by yourself, how did you respond?

II CHRONICLES 20:12 & 17: “...We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You” “You will not need to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.”

QUESTIONS

Do you regularly seek God in His word? What are you seeking Him for at this time? Is there anything that you feel God wants, but you are not seeking God for? If not, why not?

CLOSING SCRIPTURES

- » PSALMS 33:12: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance.”
- » II CHRONICLES 7:14: “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked way, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”