



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Psalm 33:8-9; Psalm 32, Genesis 6, 18, 19, Leviticus 10, 2nd Samuel 6, Psalm 33: 10-12, Psalm 1.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

If my people...

The Nation That Honors God

We have forgotten a healthy fear of the Lord, and it shows.

A healthy fear of the Lord gives believers the proper perspective of our approach to all matters.

When you hear the phrase 'fear of the Lord,' "what comes to mind first—and do you tend to think of it as something negative, positive, or misunderstood?

1. Fear the Lord Above Every Earthly Power

Psalm 33:8-9

"Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

Context: Psalm 33 is less about one moment in Israel's history and more about the God who rules all history. It calls the righteous to worship because the Lord created the world by His word, sees all humanity, frustrates the plans of nations, and blesses the people who belong to Him.

This is the first mention in the bible of the New Song. The last mention is in Revelation 14. The song is spoken of seven times in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament.

Not responding to one particular national crisis. Instead. A timeless theology of the nations.

33 follows 32 with a continuation.

Psalm 32 ends with: "Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice..."

Psalm 32 ends with rejoicing in the Lord after forgiveness; Psalm 33 begins with rejoicing in the Lord because He is Creator, Ruler, and Deliverer.

Israel was a small nation surrounded by powerful empires. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and other powers would have seemed dominant, but Psalm 33 reminds God's people that the Lord—not kings, armies, horses, or national strategy—has the final word.

Psalm 33 immediately begins: "Shout for joy in the LORD..."

The themes are different

Psalm 32: God forgives sinners.

Psalm 33: The God who forgives sinners is also the God who rules nations.

Psalm 33 was likely a worship hymn for God's people in the temple period, reminding a small and often threatened Israel that the Lord who created the world also governs the nations. The psalm teaches that history is not controlled by military strength, political power, or human plans, but by the word and counsel of God.

Vs 8 let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him

This is big talk... Israel is TINY...

Surrounded by Egypt - Assyria - Babylon - Philistia

Who do they think they are? People who saw the awesomeness of God.

Vs 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord

Fear is not the opposite of love

We often define fear emotionally.... The Hebrews defined fear positionally.

Hebrew word "fear" (yare'): recognizing that can change your life negatively

Healthy fear is a great thing! Like a hot Stove

John Calvin reminds us that 'true knowledge of God begins with reverence, not casual familiarity.'

The Flood: God judges the wickedness of mankind and destroys the earth with a flood
Genesis 6

Sodom and Gomorrah: God judges sinful rebellion and destroys the cities with fire
Genesis 18

Lot's Wife: God judges disobedience and turns her into a pillar of salt
Genesis 19

Nadab and Abihu: God judges careless worship and consumes them with fire
Leviticus 10

Uzzah: God judges irreverence and strikes him dead for touching the Ark
2 Samuel 6
... History has never surprised God. (one of scriptures, most misused, misquoted versus)

2. Remember the Lord who Rules Every Nation

Psalm 33:10-12

'The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!'

Notice in verse 10 unbelievers lack of power.

What would it look like this week to trust that 'the counsel of the Lord stands forever' in an area where your plans feel uncertain?

Galileo builds his first telescope... points to Jupiter. He discovered 4 moons orbiting it. Huge problem... that broke the law.

Catholics declared earth was the center of everything. To say otherwise was heresy.

Galileo was put under house arrest for the rest of his life... not because his math was wrong, but because his discovery threatened who was at the center.

God doesn't merely react to history... He writes it.

Vs 10 "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples."

Situation room, NORAD, Senate/House chambers, supreme court, Langley, G Bush

Center... all at once with perfect communication. But nothing like the ways of the Lord.

Charles Spurgeon said, "God's sovereignty is deeply comforting because it means history is never out of His hands."

Modern Connection

Businesses spend billions forecasting markets. **Smart phones listen**

Governments employ intelligence agencies to anticipate future threats.

However,... The "unsinkable" Titanic sank on its maiden voyage -The Berlin Wall fell

The Soviet Union collapsed-A virus disrupted global economy in a matter of weeks.

Human planning is valuable... but never ultimate.

The Bible never mocks planning... It simply refuses to worship it.

God's Blueprint is for everything.

"Believers should love their nation—but never confuse their nation with God's kingdom." R.C. Sproul

Vs 12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord"

This is NOT primarily about national success... it is about spiritual allegiance.

Hebrew "blessed" (*'ashrê*) is not the typical word for material blessing or prosperity.

(religious term) It is deep satisfaction, flourishing, rightly positioned before God.

Same as in **Psalms 1**: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked..."

The blessing is not:

The strongest economy - largest military - greatest influence - most territory

The blessing is being rightly aligned with God.

We often reverse the order:

We think..." If a nation is successful, that must mean God is blessing it."

Psalms 33 says: "The nation that recognizes God as Lord is the truly blessed nation."

*****Success is not proof of God's favor.**

Many nations have been powerful and/are godless.

Many faithful believers have lived under oppression.

A nation can be powerful and still be spiritually bankrupt. A nation can be small and still be eternally blessed.

Every earthly nation has an expiration date... **96% fail rate**

GONE... Egyptian (3k yrs)- Roman (1k yrs)- Ottomans - Soviet Union - British

Every flag eventually fades. **The average of 86 empires is 250 years**

Charles Spurgeon once said, "There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty." Psalms 33 gives us that comfort: nations plan, rulers strategize, people scheme, but the counsel of the Lord stands forever.

God's kingdom has no expiration date.

That means believers should love their nation—but never confuse their nation with God's kingdom.

LIVE IT OUT

Bible Study should ALWAYS lead to taking action with what you learned. Think of it as Vitamin A. "Application" into your day, week and interactions.

If Psalm 33:10–12 teaches us that God's counsel stands forever and human plans are not ultimate, what would it look like this week for us to live under God's rule in our church, families, workplaces, and community?"

In our church: How can we seek God's glory more than our preferences?

In our families: Where do we need to surrender control and trust God's counsel?

In our workplace: How can we make decisions with integrity, humility, and the fear of the Lord?

In our community: How can we represent God's kingdom through prayer, service, truth, and love?

What is one specific way you can show this week that your confidence is in the Lord's counsel—not your own control—in your church, home, workplace, or community?"

Pick one place this week — church, family, community, or workplace — and ask: "Lord, where do You want surrender to become visible in me?"

Revival becomes visible when surrendered people carry humility, prayer, repentance, and the love of Christ into ordinary places.

Remember:

"We are to run the race with endurance, not in our own strength, but by fixing our gaze on Jesus. He is not only the goal of our faith—He is the source and sustainer of it." R.C. Sproul

"The gospel is not only about changing WHERE you will live for eternity, it's also about changing HOW you will live today." Shane Pruitt
And that is a heart change. So that we glorify God in all we do.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot "come after" Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus' ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God's side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others

and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.