

## ACTS OF WORSHIP—ADORATION

### Psalm 33:1-22 (NIV)

**Hypothesis:** Our ability to express adoration to God directly correlates to our level of trust in God's sovereignty.

**Adoration:** Praise we offer in response to what we believe is true about the character of God: we adore God's qualities; we praise God for who he is, God's essence or attributes, and the ways God reveals himself to us.

- <sup>1</sup> Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.
- <sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- <sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- <sup>6</sup> By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- <sup>7</sup> He gathers the waters of the sea into jars;  
he puts the deep into storehouses.
- <sup>8</sup> Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.
- <sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- <sup>10</sup> The Lord foils the plans of the nations;  
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- <sup>11</sup> But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people he chose for his inheritance.
- <sup>13</sup> From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind;
- <sup>14</sup> from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—
- <sup>15</sup> he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.
- <sup>16</sup> No king is saved by the size of his army;  
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
- <sup>18</sup> But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.
- <sup>20</sup> We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.
- <sup>22</sup> May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you.

### 1. **God's Divine Word Creates** (v. 1-9)

*For he spoke, and it came to be...*

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1: 1, 14**

**Colossians 1:15-18 says:** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

### 2. **God's Divine Purpose Endures** (v. 10-17)

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever...*

"Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun." **Ecclesiastes 2:11**

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." **Exodus 14:13-14**

### 3. **God's Divine Love Sees**

*May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Hebrews 4:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

**God's Sovereignty:** Biblical teaching that God possesses all power and is the ruler of all things. God rules and works according to his eternal purpose, even through events that seem to contradict or oppose his rule (for additional info see *Holman Bible Dictionary*). Scripture emphasizes God's sovereign rule in three areas: creation, human history, and individual lives. God is omnipotent (all-powerful), God is omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipresent (present everywhere).

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—WEEK OF JULY 19, 2020

Psalms: ACTS of Worship—Adoration: Psalm 33:1-22

### CONNECT

- With the recent news of an increased duration of Covid restrictions, do you find yourself reacting more with anger, denial, hopelessness, or \_\_\_\_\_?
- What motivates you to worship God: creation, music, scripture, community, or \_\_\_\_\_?

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

**Prayer:** Begin your time together with a moment of silent prayer, and then read Psalm 33 aloud. Ask one person to read verses 1-9, another 10-17, another 18-22.

**Individual Reflection:** Adoration is praise we offer in response to what we believe is true about the character of God: we adore God's qualities; we praise God for who he is, God's essence or attributes, and the ways God reveals himself to us.

- What in this passage offers you comfort or hope?
- What in this passage inspires your worship? What inspires you to sing a new song?

**Journal:** Write your own prayer of adoration declaring God's goodness, mercy, and love and your response of hope, trust, and praise.

**Group Sharing:** What did you experience as you were doing this spiritual practice? How was the scripture a helpful guide to you in creating a prayer of adoration?

### DISCUSSION

- Reflecting on this week's scripture or message, what did you find meaningful or helpful?
- Where does the psalmist see God's power and presence? Where do you currently see God's power and presence around you?
- What does this passage teach about the righteousness and justice of God? How do we as individuals and as the church align with God's plans and purposes?
- What are the sources of power and strength that we might be tempted to trust in to make ourselves feel or believe we are in control? In dealing with the limitations of our control, how is God's sovereignty an antidote to our unhelpful reactions of anger, denial, hopelessness, fear, etc.?
- Why and how do we praise God during hard times? Why and how do we praise God when the systems we rely on are broken all around us? What is the basis of our hope?

### PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

**Praying for one another:** Share the concerns of your heart so that we can pray with hope, trusting in the good plans and purposes of God's heart.

#### **Closing Benediction: (Psalm 33:20-22)**

*We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Amen.*