

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD

Text: Psalm 33:12

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Throughout the New Testament, beatitudes describe the heart of one who is a faithful member of the Lord's kingdom – his church.
4. These blessed attitudes will enable one to make it to the eternal kingdom of God in Heaven.
5. With this understanding of the Beatitudes of the Bible, how can it be said that a nation is “blessed”?

I. The Powerful God (Psalm 33:1-11)

- A. It is fitting and right for God to be praised by the righteous.
 1. Like a bird does not have to be forced to sing, the upright do not need to be coerced into praising the Lord.
 2. It is comely – becoming or suitable – for God's people to speak well of Him and give Him the glory He deserves (32:11).
 3. Joy in the Lord motivates gratitude and praise (Philippians 4:4).
{*Note that the Bible never tells one to be sad in the Lord!*}
- B. While this praise can be personal and private, ultimately it must be expressed in public worship (cf. John 4:24; Hebrews 2:12; 10:22-25).
 1. Clearly, the use of mechanical instruments of music was a part of Old Testament worship.
 2. Had God desired them to be a part of New Testament worship, one simple statement such as this would have been sufficient.
 3. Instead, the Christian is commanded to praise God with the voice, using the instrument of the heart (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17). {*Note that everyone must have an instrument!*}
- C. This praise is expressed to Him in a “new song” – one that is fresh from the heart, not singing just to go through the motions.
 1. Jesus taught this truth concerning prayer (Matthew 6:5-13).
 2. “Let us not present old worn out praise, but put life and soul and heart into every song, since we have new mercies and blessings daily (2 Peter 3:18; Philippians 1:9).”
- D. God's power is demonstrated in His promise (word) and His performance (works) – both being right and true.
 1. “God writes with a pen that never blots, speaks with a tongue that never slips, acts with a hand that never fails.”
 2. God speaks and it happens and stands!
- E. His Word will endure as true no matter the schemes or attacks of men.

II. The Providential God (Psalm 33:13-22)

- A. This same God – mighty in power – sees and knows all.

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- B. Therefore, He is able to provide for and protect His people.
- C. He sees and knows those who fear Him and hope in His mercy.
- D. In turn, those who trust in Him are the ones who sing praise to His name.
- E. Their prayer for mercy – based upon their hope in Him – will be heard and answered.
- F. This psalm teaches:
 - 1. The Word of the Lord is ever true (vs. 4).
 - 2. The goodness of the Lord is ever new (vs. 5).
 - 3. The works of the Lord are ever good (vs. 6-9).
 - 4. The counsel of the Lord ever stands (vs. 10-11).
 - 5. The eye of the Lord ever sees (vs. 13-15, 18).
 - 6. The strength of the Lord ever triumphs (vs. 16-17, 19-22).

III. The People of God (Psalm 33:12)

- A. Any nation with this God as their Lord will be blessed indeed!
- B. However, this statement is directed toward the nation of Israel under the Law of Moses.
 - 1. They were blessed because it was through them that the Messiah would come into the world (cf. Matthew 1; Luke 3).
 - 2. They were blessed because God had chosen them for this noble purpose.
 - 3. They were blessed because God’s power and providence would preserve and protect them until the Savior appeared.
- C. Thus, this beatitude is still connected to the promise made to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
- D. However, there are principles revealed in this psalm that may apply to any nation at any time.
 - 1. A nation that fulfills God’s purpose by obeying His Word will be blessed (cf. Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4).
 - 2. A people that abide by the principles of God’s Word will be blessed.
- E. Yet, the greater lesson to be learned from this psalm is the blessedness of the Lord’s church.
 - 1. The church of Christ is God’s holy nation and peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9; Titus 2:14).
 - 2. This spiritual kingdom is under the protection of the powerful and providential God sung about in the psalm.
- F. The church is blessed indeed, for it is the home of the blessed!
- G. How greatly should the Christian praise the God of Heaven!

Conclusion: *“Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”*