

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 97 – Give Unto The Lord Through A Request For God’s Mercy Upon Israel (Psalms 29-33)

1. As we begin studying our context, what is to be given unto the Lord?

“(1) Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength. (2) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalms 29:1-2).

What does it mean to give strength unto the Lord? Consider **Proverbs 31:3** in showing that we are to give majesty to God, but Solomon was instructed not to give his strength to a woman.

2. What do we learn from our context about the voice of the Lord?

“(3) The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. (4) The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. (5) The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. (6) He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. (7) The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. (8) The voice of the LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. (9) The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory” (Psalms 29:3-9).

With the power of God’s voice, you’d think more would obey Him (cf. **Joshua 24:24**).

3. Do we find any indicator in our study that God has dominion over floodwaters?

Yes: “(10) The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever” (Psalms 29:10).

4. During the time of the Old Testament, what was the source of strength and peace for Israel?

God: “(11) The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace” (Psalms 29:11).

5. Why was the Psalmist willing to lift up [extol] God?

“(1) I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. (2) O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. (3) O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit” (Psalms 30:1-3).

6. Since God’s anger is temporary, what did the Psalmist say the people should do?

“(4) Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. (5) For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalms 30:4-5).

7. Who helped the Psalmist to be unmovable and to stand strong?

“(6) And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. (7) LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled. (8) I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication” (Psalms 30:6-8).

8. What do we learn about the Psalmist in verses 9-12 of Psalms 30?

He knew that his flesh could not praise God in death, he understood the Lord was his helper, he praised God for changing his misery to gladness, and he is forever thankful to God: “(9) *What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth?* (10) *Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be thou my helper.* (11) *Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;* (12) *To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever*” (Psalms 30:9-12).

9. How much did the Psalmist trust in God?

“(1) *In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.* (2) *Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.* (3) ***For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.*** (4) *Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.* (5) ***Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth***” (Psalms 31:1-5).

10. In our context, who has the Psalmist hated?

“*I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD*” (Psalms 31:6).

See also: **Psalms 97:10; 119:104; 128; 163; 139:21-22, Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9, and I Peter 3:10-11.**

11. What was the Psalmist glad and rejoicing in?

“(7) ***I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy:*** *for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;* (8) *And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room*” (Psalms 31:7-8).

12. In this thirty-first Psalm, does the Psalmist pen anything that reveals he is in some sort of trouble?

Yes: “(9) *Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly.* (10) *For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.* (11) *I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.* (12) *I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.* (13) *For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life*” (Psalms 31:9-13).

13. After the Psalmist declares his trust in God, what does he ask God to do?

“(14) *But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.* (15) *My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.* (16) *Make thy face to shine upon thy servant: save me for thy mercies' sake.* (17) *Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave.* (18) *Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous*” (Psalms 31:14-18).

14. According to the Psalmist, what does God do for those that fear Him?

“(19) Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! (20) Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. (21) Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city. (22) For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee. (23) O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. (24) Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD” (Psalms 31:19-24).

15. As we begin the thirty-second Psalm, who is described as a blessed man?

“(1) Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. (2) Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile” (Psalms 32:1-2; cf. Romans 4:7-8).

16. Can a godly individual remain silent when in sin or would they confess their error?

*“(3) **When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. (4) For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. (5) I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. (6) For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. (7) Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. (8) I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. (9) **Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. (10) Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. (11) Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart” (Psalms 32:3-11).*****

A person who desires to be godly realizes that every moment they are in sin they are separated from God (**Isaiah 59:1-3**) and they hate that! When in sin, we are an abomination to God (**Proverbs 21:27** and **Titus 1:16**).

17. What would you say to someone who uses Psalms 33:1-3 to justify usage of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God today?

The problem is, we are under the New Testament of Jesus Christ (**Romans 7:1-6**, **Ephesians 2:11-17**, and **Hebrews 9:15-17**) and nowhere in this Covenant is there authority to worship God with mechanical instruments of music. God requires worship to be done correctly (**John 4:23-24**). He demands that we do not follow the doctrines of men (**Colossians 2:8**). Since this practice cannot be found in the New Testament, it is a doctrine of men rather than of Christ (**Matthew 28:18-20**). If God wanted us to play instruments of music in our worship to Him, the New Testament would tell us when and how to do so (**II Timothy 3:16-17** and **II Peter 1:3**).

What we do find in the New Testament is the authority for our musical worship to God to

be singing. We must understand that God expects us to follow a pattern to do what pleases Him (**II Timothy 1:13**). Any changes to that pattern results in sin (**I John 3:4**, **Galatians 1:6-12**, and **Revelation 22:18-19**). Worship is about what is pleasing to God, not about what is pleasing to us (**Philippians 3:3**). Now notice what God wants us to do in our musical worship to Him: “*And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.... And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives... And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and **sang** praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them... And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and **sing** unto thy name.... What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will **sing** with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.... **Speaking** to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** with grace in your hearts to the Lord... Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I **sing** praise unto thee... Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him **sing** psalms” (**Matthew 26:30**, **Mark 14:26**, **Acts 16:25**, **Romans 15:9**, **I Corinthians 14:15**, **Ephesians 5:19**, **Colossians 3:16**, **Hebrews 2:12**, and **James 5:13**). The pattern is clear, God wants us to sing for our musical worship unto Him!*

18. Whose word is right?

“*For the word of the **LORD** is right; and all his works are done in truth*” (**Psalms 33:4**).

See also: **Psalms 12:6**, **19:8**, **119:75**, **128**, **Proverbs 30:5-6**, **John 17:17**, **Romans 7:12**, **Colossians 1:5**, and **James 1:18**.

19. Where, outside of the Scriptures, can we see the goodness of the Lord and what should that cause us to do?

“(5) *He loveth righteousness and judgment: **the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD**. (6) *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. (7) He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. (8) Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world **stand in awe of him**. (9) For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast*” (**Psalms 33:5-9**).*

The earth is a testimony of the power of the Almighty (**Psalms 104:24** and **Acts 14:17**).

20. Will the counsel of sinners overtake God’s counsel?

NO: “(10) *The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. (11) The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations*” (**Psalms 33:10-11**).

21. What nation is blessed?

“(12) *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance*” (**Psalms 33:12**).

22. Does God know what’s going on in this world?

Yes: “(13) *The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. (14) From the*

place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. (15) He fashioneth created; formed] their hearts alike; he considereth all their works” (Psalms 33:13-15).

23. Is it best to trust in things of this world (i.e. kings and horses) or to trust in God?

*“(16) There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. (17) An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. (18) Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; (19) To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. (20) Our soul waiteth for **the LORD: he is our help and our shield.** (21) For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name” (Psalms 33:16-21).*

24. To whom should mankind look for mercy?

God: *“(22) Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee” (Psalms 33:22).*