



**His Plans vs. Our Plans
God Is Not Silent
Psalms 33:11-22**

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Psalms 33:11–22

“The plan of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen for His own inheritance. The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of mankind; From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not rescued by great strength. A horse



is a false hope for victory; Nor does it rescue anyone by its great strength. **Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who wait for His faithfulness, To rescue their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. Let Your favor, LORD, be upon us, Just as we have waited for You.**" (NASB 2020)

In the first part of Psalm 33 we looked at the standards for worship. Creation alone being sufficient for His creation to worship and praise Him. What David is saying here in Psalm 33 is that God is transcendent as well as immanent. Let me explain.

Because of the fall, His creation has discarded their creator as unneeded and unnecessary.

Nothing more than a reminder of old superstitions they would say. But the reality is very clear, He is the creator, and He is still involved in His creation, and one day very soon, He will step again into His creation and change everything just as he has promised. God really did create everything by His word. But many today will say He is transcendent over His creation yet not involved with His creation at all.

"When the Bible speaks of creation of the universe by the instrumentality of God's powerful Word it professes to tell us about an objective relationship between the Creator and the cosmos; it is saying much more than simply that man internally stands in interpersonal faith-relationships to the Creator. Divine transcendence and immanence involve continuing external relationships in which God stands to the entire space-time creation." (Henry 1999, 40)

In other words, because God created the universe by His word through the instrumentality of Jesus Christ who is also God (Colossian 1:15-20), there is accountability to the one who made us. He is indeed the transcendent creator of everything, and He has not walked off leaving us on our own. This also is just another reason why He is worthy of our praise.

The transcendence upward of the God of the biblical Christ-revelation transcends, and also penetrates, the whole visible and invisible world, as his sovereign will, Word and Spirit (Romans 1:18-23). The wholly different essence and character of the divine presence in the world—over against the world—is guaranteed by the Creator's revelation. Creation by itself cannot reveal God, but God reveals himself in the depth of creation, if we have found him in Christ. (Hegedüs 2006, 715)

According to the Bible God both transcends the created universe and is pervasively immanent in it. (Henry 1999, 36)

Since God's plans stand forever, that implies not only being over His creation but involved in it as well. That is what is meant by the term immanence. We see both reflected in the Bible.

In Genesis 1 God creates the universe, but He did not then walk away as some allege even today. We see Him in His creation in Genesis 3:8.

Genesis 3:8

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden." (ESV)

And then there is Ephesians 4, where both are referred to of God in the same verse.

Ephesians 4:6

"one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (NET 2nd ed.)



The key point here is that the Bible never presents the immanence and transcendence of God as contradictory, but only as complementary perspectives on the completely unique Divine Being. Thus, if any human being utilizes such an either/or kind of reasoning, no matter how brilliant the person and no matter how logical the case may sound, it cannot be correct because it is in direct opposition to God-breathed Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16). **God is both immanent and transcendent, whether limited human beings grasp that clearly or not.** (Luter 2008, 251)

Our basic problem today with thinking Biblically, and that is what David is advocating here, the reason why we object to a creator in the first place and seriously object to one who is involved in His creation is because we have, in the past century, rejected absolutes. The Bible comes from the perspective that truth is only obtainable through the Lord and through God's word, yet our culture today rejects that.

In the past, if you told a non-Christian teenager to “be a good girl” and, while she might not have followed your advice, at least she would have understood what you were talking about. To say the same thing to a truly modern girl today would be to make a “nonsense” statement. The blank look you might receive would not mean that your standards had been rejected, but that your message was meaningless.” (Schaeffer 1982, 7)

The impact of this is now being seen in our culture actively redefining what is right versus what is wrong. George Barna has recently said the following about the redefinition taking place today.

“Our national moral code is increasingly being shaped by cultural rather than spiritual forces,” he said. “If Christians in America want a nation based on biblical morality, they must be clearer and more assertive in teaching, evaluating, and modeling of the biblical worldview and its resultant lifestyle choices. As matters stand now, the biblical worldview is poised to lose what little ground it currently occupies in America, including an increased loss of influence related to our national morality.” (Barna 2025)

Here in Psalm 33, David operates from that Biblical worldview premise and as such, he can cover creation by the word of God in the first part of the psalm and then move to God being involved with His creation here in the second part of the psalm. He is confident that it is truth. We see the connection here in verse 11, macro plans and micro plans of God all at once. And the example of that, His people Israel.

Psalm 33:11–12

“The plan of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen for His own inheritance.”
(NASB 2020)

Contrary to voices that are now becoming more strident, replacement theology, or the more extreme view of it we hear being bandied about by so called social influencers on the internet is not exactly in alignment with what we believe the Bible to say.

“Extreme replacement theology is the teaching that, because many of the Jews did not acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the Messiah of promise, God replaced Israel with the Gentile church.” (Venema 2012, 9) This is also called supersessionism.

But here is the thing, there has always been only a remnant of those who are of Israel who were true believers. Just as we look out today and see this thing called the church, not everyone in the church is a true follower of Jesus Christ, the same has existed in Israel throughout history. At times the remnant was a majority of the nation, but for much of the history of Israel, it was not.

Paul talked about that in Romans 11.



Romans 11:1–6

“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” **So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.” (ESV)

What is happening now, Paul explains, is what has always happened throughout Jewish history; that is, only a remnant believes. It is always the Remnant that believes. This was true in Elijah’s day, and it is true today. The fact that the majority do not believe is not evidence enough that the whole nation has been cut off. The point is that in Israel—past, present, and future—it is the Remnant that is faithful to the revelation of God. This is also true in this present Dispensation of Grace; the Messianic Jews are the Remnant of Israel today. (Fruchtenbaum, *The Remnant of Israel: The Theology, History, and Philosophy of the Messianic Jewish Community* 2011, 36)

God is not done with Israel yet. Not at all. Paul tells us what has taken place as a result of their rejection of the Messiah.

Romans 11:25

“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: **a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**” (ESV)

There are promises in the scriptures that are for Israel and only for Israel.

To make it very clear: The promises made to Israel are not fulfilled spiritually in the church. As was presented, the church did not exist until the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The writers of the New Testament never called Israel the church (or vice versa), and the phrase “Israel of God” in Galatians 6:16 does not negate this fact. In short, the church has not replaced Israel as the people of God—not in the past, not now, not in the Messianic kingdom, and not in the eternal state. (Fruchtenbaum, *What the Bible Teaches About Israel: Past, Present and Future* 2019, 5)

God is not done with Israel and here at Calvary Chapel, we do indeed love Israel and the people of Israel. There has always been a remnant of Israel that has been faithful to the Lord just as we saw earlier in 1 Kings 19:18 and Romans 11:5. “The point being made is that there are two Israels: Israel the whole, composed of all Jews; and Israel the elect, composed of all believing Jews, which is the true Israel of God. Both groups are Jews and both groups are called Israel, the difference being that the Jews who are of Abraham by faith as well as by flesh are the true Israel.” (Fruchtenbaum, *The Remnant of Israel: The Theology, History, and Philosophy of the Messianic Jewish Community* 2011, 38)

Psalms 33:13

“The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of mankind;” (NASB 2020)

Now David moves to the fact that God is not a disinterested creator who set everything up and then checked out. Not at all. We find out that God loves us so much as His followers that He cannot take His eye off of us. As He looks down, He sees all of mankind, His entire creation.

He has already made provision for His creation to be redeemed, but most of it refuses to accept God’s terms, which are non-negotiable and instead have counterproposals which are lies.



Our culture though has chosen to basically either give God a nod, or are rejecting Him altogether. A recent observation from George Barna reveals that “the atheist and agnostic percentage of the nation’s population today is about one-quarter of all adults, remains one of the fastest growing religious segments in the United States, and one that will likely continue to grow in the next decade or two.” (Barna 2025)

This is consistent with what has been observed in our culture over the past century and much fo the church has ignored.

Those who reject God altogether, “they have dispensed with God altogether, including the term God. When the real God-is-dead men say God is dead, they do not merely mean that God is being listened to very little in our modern secular world, but that He never existed.” (Schaeffer 1982, 84)

Truth is incredibly easy to find today and yet, there are still those who reject even the basic truth that Jesus told His disciples before going to the cross.

John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (ESV)

That is becoming a seriously unpopular message all around the world today. Every nation that has turned towards Islam is engaged in genocide against followers of Jesus Christ. We are now seeing this show up in pockets of our own nation as people no longer stand for truth and believe lies. All of which is a sign of the end of the age, deception is indeed going to get worse as is persecution. I hate to have to say this, but nowhere in the Bible is there teaching about a great last days revival and then the rapture. But Jude does say what we should look for.

Jude 10–11

“But these men do not understand the things they slander, and they are being destroyed by the very things that, like irrational animals, they instinctively comprehend. **Woe to them! For they have traveled down Cain’s path, and because of greed have abandoned themselves to Balaam’s error; hence, they will certainly perish in Korah’s rebellion.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Dr. Feinberg tells us that “the name of Korah stands now for rebellion against constituted authority. The apostle Jude, centuries later, warns that in the last days ungodly men will go in the way of Cain (the religious murderer), and will run riotously in the error of Balaam (the religious racketeer), and will perish in the gainsaying of Korah (the religious rebel).

Today in our beloved land we find Korah revived and restored, stalking through the land and bringing misery and woe with his rebellious ways. No authority is sacred to him if it stands in the way of his selfish ends. Constituted authority, lawful government may be set aside when it runs counter to selfish objectives.” (Feinberg 1947, 2)

Dr. McGee wondered about the idea of revival at the end.

I do not know whether we will have a revival in our day or not. Humanly speaking, the nation of Judah could not have revival, but the Spirit of God is sovereign, and God can move in. He can move in today. There is nothing in the Word of God that would preclude that possibility. (McGee 1991, 270)

There was indeed a revival in Judah under King Josiah at 5 minutes to midnight, figuratively and then came the judgment of exile. As followers of Christ, our goal is to be in and remain in His will so we can be used by Him to do whatever He wants to do.



There is one thing that we have been promised by our Lord, as His followers, we will be persecuted.

John 16:33

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**” (ESV)

As God looks down, He does indeed see everything, including the persecution we endure as well as those who are the ones doing the persecution. Paul identified the church in Thessalonica as one enduring persecution and he had this to say to them.

2 Thessalonians 1:4–10

“We proudly tell God’s other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering. And **God will use this persecution to show his justice and to make you worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering. In his justice he will pay back those who persecute you. And God will provide rest for you who are being persecuted and also for us when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven.** He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. **They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.** When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him.” (NLT)

Did you notice this, the God David tells us who is looking down, sees all and remembers all. Those who persecute those who belong to Him will be judged forever. Once they stand before the Lord at the Great White Throne and their life is reviewed to include the persecution they engaged in, judgment will be pronounced and then begin in hell, never to end.

It is incredibly important to have a true understanding of who God is now, because it will be too late then.

Psalms 33:14–15

“From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works.” (NASB 2020)

God is worthy of praise because He is indeed looking down and watching us. This is not like you or me scanning a group of folks and maybe missing someone we are looking for. The word used here for “looks out” is *hisgeah* (hisgeah).

This word means to “notice, gaze at; look closely at, examine critically.” (Lexham Press 2017)

From His dwelling place, He examines critically everything that He sees. It is like someone in the military observing an event and gathering intel on who what when and where, as they do so. Video is obtained of the event, photos of all who are there, backgrounds are examined of each and every participant to include the level of participation or if they were planners. Past speeches and writing are also obtained to provide a complete picture.

When Jesus Christ judges at the Great White Throne, it will be a righteous judgment and all the facts will be available, to include those things I would not be able to obtain, the thoughts behind the actions. The real motivation and why we do what we do.

For those of us who know the Lord, knowing this is a reason to praise Him. We know He knows us, He has forgiven us because we rely on what Jesus did on the cross, and we are following Jesus. We are amazed He loves us even though He knows us. But for those who do not know Jesus, knowing that there is a day coming where everything you said, did, and thought will be made public is horror.



Because God is our creator, He knows even our inner most desires and motivations, our heart. He created it and based on our free will; we have either conformed ourselves to be more like Jesus or corrupted ourselves further from the beginning point of just being a sinner. Those who opt for their own solution have something as seen in Enoch as a potential future.

Enoch 53:3–5

“For I saw all the angels of punishment abiding there and preparing all the instruments of Satan. And I asked the angel of peace who went with me: ‘For whom are they preparing these instruments?’ And he said unto me: ‘They prepare these for the kings and the mighty of this earth, that they may thereby be destroyed.’” (Charles and Oesterley 1917)

“Chains of Satan” in effect would express the idea of a deserved fate brought on by being foolish enough to choose his way over God’s. (Heiser 2020, 89)

God is indeed looking and keeping records. Even though we would assume He was talking about Israel, Israel was not named by name because again, it is relationship that provides the definition of His nation, we cannot author our own definition of who we are apart from the Lord. Faithfulness to Him and His word turns us into people of promise, ones with an inheritance.

Colossians 1:10–14

“Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. **He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.” (NLT)

If God’s action and attitude toward his people have been characterized by grace, their response to him, in life and conduct as well as in thought and word, should be characterized by gratitude. Nothing less is fitting, considering how he has qualified them to share the inheritance of his holy people. (Bruce 1984, 49)

Because God made us, and He knows us, He also is aware of our tendency to rely on things of this world to provide for us.

Psalms 33:16–17

“The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not rescued by great strength. A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it rescue anyone by its great strength.” (NASB 2020)

Before coming to Christ, we thought we had all of the answers but the reality is we had no answers at all. Before Jesus, we were looking and not finding answers. Solomon tells us what that was like.

Ecclesiastes 1:1–3

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?” (ESV)

What Solomon reflects is the opposite of David, Solomon reflects how someone who has not trusted in a transcendent and immanent God does life. The “use of the phrase under the sun highlights the restricted scope of his inquiry. His worldview does not allow him to take a transcendent yet immanent God into consideration in his quest for meaning.” (Longman 1998, 66)



It is the reflection of the one who is the opposite of what David tells us here in Psalm 33 we are to be. We can trust the Lord, but we cannot trust in a large army to save us. The King needs a King, not an army, the King needs the Lord. Military might does not save, only the Lord saves.

I remember wrestling in High School. At the time there was the unlimited category, and I wrestled in it at about 205 lbs. Most of those who I wrestled against outweighed me by 100 or more pounds and most were taller as well. I had just started lifting weight but most were stronger than me as well.

But I had a coach who taught me how to do certain wrestling moves and counters. To include some Greco Roman moves that were not too widely taught to others in my weight class. The reason was simple, they were bigger so they would win. But because I learned the various moves my coach taught, I was beating larger and stronger opponents. Speed, skill and stealth worked better than size.

By the way, I learned in college that there is always someone who is stronger than you. Always. Why the examples here?

Who are we to place our confidence in? The Lord. Human power and human strength and ingenuity, and human promises, all transitory.

Can we rely on any other outside resource to save us? Can a fleet of fighter jets seal the deal for us? Certain Arab nations have just learned that having rockets and missiles may not necessarily result in victory either. Military might and military resources does not guarantee victory. At Armageddon, Jesus wins with His word (Revelation 19:15).

For Israel, there were restrictions on the aggregation of certain military resources by the King in the Torah. And yes, these tended to be ignored by most of the Kings.

Deuteronomy 17:16–20

“Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.” (ESV)

Deuteronomy 20:1

“‘When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’” (ESV)

King Hezekiah was running out of time getting Jerusalem ready for a siege he knew was coming from the largest military in the world at the time, Assyria. He had rebelled against continuing to pay them tribute, so Assyria was in Judah conquering the surrounding cities leaving Jerusalem for last. He had tried to do the wise thing for a King to do and strike an alliance with Egypt, but God smelled that out and exposed everything to Isaiah (Isaiah 31:1).

As the Assyrian forces moved in on Jerusalem, Hezekiah turned towards the Lord and asked Him for help. Literally a picture of Israel at the end of the age. God answered his prayer.



2 Kings 19:35–37

“And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh. And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword and escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.” (ESV)

There were those times where the Kings did as they were supposed to and when the enemy would show up, the Lord protected. But due to sin of the Kings and the people, that eventually ended as the Lord disciplined His people and they went into exile.

Psalms 33:18

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who wait for His faithfulness,” (NASB 2020)

God is constantly and consistently watching over His creation, and who does He continue to specifically have an eye on? Those who fear Him.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, to rely on military might, or money or whatever else we may have in this world that creates the myth in our minds of stability, if we fear the Lord then we have true stability. God chooses to bless those who follow Him and wait on Him.

God does not save the proud, the self-confident, those who rely on their own created gods to make them feel better about themselves.

Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (ESV)

Proverbs 3:5–8

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” (ESV)

God cares for His own. His eye is on those who are followers of Jesus and we can rest assured of His salvation because of Jesus. We wait for His faithfulness. Notice the subtle difference here, we are waiting for the Lord, not on the Lord.

Psalms 33:19–20

“To rescue their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine. **Our soul waits for the LORD;** He is our help and our shield.” (NASB 2020)

Yes, we are indeed told to wait on the Lord, but you wait for Him, that implies relationship.

It implies we have prayed to Him and poured out our heart to Him and now, we are waiting for Him to respond.

Waiting on the Lord involves the confident expectation of a positive result in which we place a great hope. This expectation is based on knowledge of and trust in God. Those who do not know the Lord will not wait on Him; neither will those who fail to trust Him. (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

We wait on the Lord by prayer and supplication, looking for the indication of his will; we wait for the Lord by patience and submission, looking for the interposition of his hand. (Meyer 1910, 100)



The one who has placed their trust in the Lord and waited for His faithfulness is one who has waited on the Lord in prayer and because we have talked with Him and let him know of our needs, we then wait for Him to respond. These are things that David has learned and that as we follow the Lord, find we too learn.

God's eye is on those who follow Him, who fear Him. "The Lord's hand goes with his eye; he sovereignly preserves those whom he graciously observes. Rescues and restorations hedge about the lives of the saints; death cannot touch them till the King signs his warrant and gives him leave." (Spurgeon n.d., 108)

We praise Him because He is our help and He is our shield. As we look to Him, we find He is wholly reliable in a world of unreliability. He is always trustworthy and always there for us.

At the beginning of Psalm 33, we were commanded to sing our praises to the Lord. To worship Him for being our creator. "We often assume that we can worship God only when our faith is right and sure. In other words, we tend to see praise as a product of the current state of our faith. But according to the psychology reflected in this psalm, it is faith that stems from praise. Faith is not self-engineered but is a product of encounter with God." (Broyles 2012, 166)

We praise Him solely because He is worthy. He is the one who has made us and for those who choose to fear Him and follow Him, we are crafted into a people for His name. We are privileged to discover that His love for those who follow Him includes inheritance, yes we do indeed inherit from God, but we are His chosen inheritance.

He looks at all on the planet, but only watches over those of us who follow Him.

Psalm 33:21–22

"For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. Let Your favor, LORD, be upon us, Just as we have waited for You." (NASB 2020)

In verse 21a in him means "because of him" or "because of what he has done" (see verse 1). (Bratcher and Reyburn 1991, 318)

The source of our joy is once again found in the Lord, because of who He is and what He has and continues to do for us.

For many in the world today, the name of our Lord is a curse word, but for us, Jesus Christ is the name we trust in. We rely on His work on the cross and His promises to live day by day in the assurance of the salvation that He has given to those who place their trust in Him.

David closes out this psalm asking that as we wait for the Lord and wait for what He has promised to do, we continue to see His favor and His blessings in our lives.

To wait on the Lord is to look confidently to God for deliverance and to expect that deliverance. (Jacobson and Tanner 2014, 318)

Let's pray.



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