

## ***Our Only Hope***

### Psalm 33

*[This is a long psalm, so as usual with the longer psalms, rather than including the entirety of it here, I encourage you to read it before continuing on with this devotion.]*

This psalm is a creation psalm. The Lord created all things by His Word. **He spoke and it came to be.** The great depth of the oceans, the land, and all that grows and inhabits the earth. As we look at creation, at its variety, complexity, and interconnectedness, we stand in awe. Even the greatest achievements of man pale in comparison to this. But the psalmist tells us (correctly) not to stand in awe of creation, but of the one who created it all. For if creation is awesome, how much more its designer, architect, and maker!

This **Lord looks down from heaven** and **sees all the children of man.** He sees *you*. No one escapes His sight or His knowledge. That is comforting when we are in trouble or need, and perhaps terrifying when we are sinful and rebellious. But in this is all our hope. When we are in trouble or need, **He is our help and our shield.** When we are sinful and rebellious, He is our salvation. He does not approve of your sin or condone it, but this same God who created you and all there is, has come to save you from your sin. No great army, strength, or war horse can save us in our dying day. The only one who can save us from sin is the one who took our sin and guilt upon Himself and died for it on the cross. The only one who can save us from death is the one who died and then defeated death in His resurrection. **He is our help and our shield.**

Of course, you can choose to fight on your own. You can charge into the battle against sin and death with your puny and weak and ineffective weapons. Many do. Their own good works, their own resolve, their own strength, they think, can get them through. But in the end, when facing the last enemy, death, these weapons can do nothing. Therefore, the psalmist says, **our soul waits for the Lord.** And **our heart is glad in Him, because we**

***trust in His holy name.*** And what is that name? Jesus. And what does that name mean? God saves. And He does.

So next time you see a beautiful sunset, hear a bird sing, or even see a powerful storm raging, stand in awe of this creation and its maker. But even more rejoice that this creator loves you, has redeemed you, has died for you, and risen from the dead for you. That you too may rise from death to live with Him forever.

*Lord God, how awesome is Your creation! Yet even more, we stand in awe of You, its Maker and Redeemer. Thank You for Your great and precious promises to us, all of them fulfilled by Jesus. Forgive us our sin and rebellion, and help us to trust in You at all times, for You are our help and our shield. And when we are facing death, give us strength of faith and confidence in You, knowing that it is Your strength, not ours, that saves. Amen.*