

Our Hope and Our Help Psalm 33:6-22 July 5, 2026

Last week we looked at some of the floats in the 419 year parade of God's blessings on this nation. We noted that even the Star Spangled Banner has a verse that declares, In God is our Trust. Last week we recognized that many of our early leaders were sincere followers of Jesus and in many cases, it was **because** of their commitment to Him that they founded this great nation. We glanced around the Rotunda of the US Capitol Building to see enshrined on its walls paintings of prayer meetings, worship services, and even a baptism. Not only was the faith of these patriots obvious at the time, but it was highlighted by those who selected the paintings to represent our history years later. They were not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. If you missed last week, watch on Youtube, but for today, please open your Bibles today to Psalm 33. Pew Bible.

We could easily fill many more hours with accounts of our early leaders and their commitments to Jesus Christ. I would encourage you to read Lives of the Signers by BJ Lossing copyright 1848, the Founders Bible with numerous articles by David Barton, and virtually any other early history of our nation. Because, as Shakespeare said, the past is prologue. It's important to know our past, to be aware of how we got here, so we can **use** that knowledge to chart our course for the future. We can't change the past. We can only build on it. And so today, as we continue to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, what can you and I do to secure the blessings of God for another 250 years should the He tarry? If you are able, please stand as we look to Ps 33 for that answer. Vs 6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

This passage commands everyone on earth to fear and revere the Lord, to honor Him for several reasons. The very first mentioned is His work in creation. Say creation. Throughout God's Word, from beginning to end, God is glorified, honored, and lifted up for His work of creating all that is. If you remove every reference of this enormous act of God from the Bible, the book will look like it's been on GLP-1. It will be much skinnier and much less powerful. God is our Creator! Let all take note! It's no wonder the Devil devised an evil scheme to steal this foundational work from God's credit. As our Creator, God is not only our Source and Originator, He is also our provider and sustainer. And as such, we have every obligation, duty, and responsibility to glorify

and honor Him and to worship and to obey Him in every way possible. God's authority rests on His work in creating not only every human being but in all that exists. As we celebrate our nation's birthday, let's realize who is our ultimate Source, Cause and Maker and revere and honor Him for it! Even as did the writers of the Declaration of Independence who said that all men were CREATE equal and endowed by their CREATOR with inalienable rights.

But then David goes on to sing about how God foils the plans of the nations and thwarts or frustrates the purposes of the peoples. Say frustrates. Whether those plans and purposes are developed by democrats or republicans, Americans or Iranians, the French or British. God's plans and God's purposes stand firm forever! Our Bibles and our history books document chapter by chapter kingdoms and nations that rose, ruled, dominated, and fell. Babylon, Assyria, Greece, Rome, France, Great Britain, Germany, USSR, etc. Isa 40:15 tells us that to God, "Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales," and Job 12:23 says, "He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them." Jeremiah calls Him the King of nations! After God humbled the proud Nebuchadnezzar, he said in Daniel 4:34-35, "[God's] dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. 35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?""

Since God can accomplish His will with or without us, with or without the US, it's up to us to decide to be a part of what He is doing, not ask Him to bless what we're doing. And since His plans stand firm forever, it behooves us not to try to bend God's mind to our plans but to bend ours to His. To **abandon** ours and adopt His! His plans and His purposes will be done! The first duty of every follower of Jesus is to find out what Jesus wants done and then do it! We all may have changes we'd like to see in this country. That is not the question. The question is, what does God want done in this country? More on that in a bit.

Vs 12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." Certainly this initially applied to Israel, and I believe, still does. But let us also recognize that God has chosen His children to be His heirs and joint heirs with Christ! And so, as we seek Him, as we honor and worship Him as this Psalm demands, we will enjoy God's blessing also. The best thing you can do for America is not set off fireworks every fourth of July. It's not to wear red, white, and blue every day. The most patriotic thing you can do is to tell someone about Jesus! Number 1, it's what He commanded us to do. But 2 the side effects are marvelous! The person, if they believe, becomes a child of God and will one day be in heaven! It doesn't matter how many citizens are free in the US, for unless they know Jesus, they're still in bondage. And 3, as he or she grows in Jesus, they produce more and more good fruit of love, joy, peace, etc that will improve life for them, their families, their communities, and ultimately for the nation in which they live. Couldn't we all benefit from more love, joy, and peace in this

country? God's plans and God's ways were designed by Him for our thriving both individually and together as a people. Tell someone about Jesus!

And then follow Him faithfully yourself. If all in America who claimed to be Christian acted like Christ, what a different nation we would have! Politicians and preachers both must be careful not to color the way of Christ with any party affiliation. Our first, highest, and only calling is to be like Jesus. Not a republican a democrat or even an American. Let us live like Jesus. And if and when we do, it will be good for those around us as well as for our nation. Our 2nd president, John Adams, said "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." He should know. He helped write it and implement it. What a high privilege we are given to live in a nation we did nothing to found that also has historically encouraged its citizens to be faithful followers of Jesus. We could have just as easily been born in North Korea, China, or Iran where our Christianity would be met by persecution and death. May we use the freedoms we have to be that moral and religious people Adams talked about, no, to be Jesus-followers of the highest order for His glory which will then benefit our nation immeasurably. Many Christians will stand up for our anthem, good, because they're proud to be an American, but they sit there like a bump on a log when the Word of God is being preached. They won't stand up for Jesus or live like Him every day. The best 2 things you can do for your child's and your grandchildren's future in this nation is to lead someone else to Jesus **and** to set a good and godly example for them yourself by your attendance at worship, in the language you use, in the way you treat your spouse and children and parents, in the way you work, in the way you pray and sing and smile.

Do the best you know to do now. Ultimately, none of us will be here a hundred years from now, except maybe a few in the nursery this morning. We can and should do all we can now to train them up in the way of Jesus. What they do later will be theirs to decide. But what now we do is ours to decide. Do as much good as you know to do right now. Love your neighbor as yourself. Support ministries that advance the work of Jesus like Samaritan's purse, FPSC, SCPC, CBC, Antioch Church. With money? Yes. But most importantly with your involvement in whatever way God has gifted you. To help lead in worship or music, to teach, to fix or serve food, to clean up, to visit, to repair toilets, to care for your children, etc. All of these are important ministries. While standing for truth and righteousness. Tell about Jesus and be like Jesus yourself! Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and whose people live like it!

Vs 13 From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; 14 from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth — 15 he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do." These verses remind us that God is superintending all that goes on in this and every nation. The King of all Nations has oversight of them all. He considers all that we do individually and as a country. And it is up to us to do what He calls us to do in our own lives each day, and as we have just said, also together as a

nation. For He is watching. We may not be able to vote on all the issues, but we can vote for those who will. In this country, He has allowed us to choose our own leaders. Government of the people, by the people and for the people! What a privilege! What a responsibility! But this was not achieved accidentally or by chance. Only at the great cost of blood and coin. Please register and vote in every election! Do some research to find out what the issues are and where the different candidates stand on them and then vote accordingly. You're likely to never find someone who agrees with you 100% of the time but we must choose wisely and then stay in contact with those elected to remind them of what the Bible says.

Some of the most critical decisions of our time certainly involve human life, both in and out of the womb. As followers of the One who **is** life, how can we best protect it? Certainly by supporting Pregnancy Centers, but also by teaching our children how valuable life is. By voting against the abortion amendment this fall that has language to close the center's doors and to silence anyone who speaks up for the unborn. But also by helping young mothers who struggle to raise their children in an economy that is often difficult. And we must respect life on the other end. Our northern neighbor, Canada, is now encouraging many who suffer, even acutely, to end their own lives. For God's sake no! God is able to heal, but He is also able to work through suffering as He has done in virtually all of our lives and ultimately through Jesus' suffering. You and I may or may not have the opportunity to vote on legalized suicide, but the people we elect will. Vote Biblically!

One of the main issues of our day is immigration as the Supreme Court has ruled on just this past week. How can we welcome strangers and also protect citizens already here? How can we open our door to those who honestly seek to participate in good faith while also shutting it to those who would steal, kill, and destroy? It's not solved by simply shutting the door completely or by leaving it open wide. May we pray and seek God's wisdom and encourage our leaders to keep working on this vital issue. God help us.

We must also speak out against antisemitism. It's hard to believe we are facing this in our country but we are. And it is being openly advocated. We have a number of very loud voices in this country who are calling for the complete elimination of all Jews, and violence against them has skyrocketed in the US in the last few years. What if it were against Germans? Or French, or English? God provided some Jews to loan money to the early Americans to finance our War of Independence. And they were never repaid, except now their descendants are with hatred and harm. God forbid for them or any people!

Certainly economics are important and we must continue to encourage our leaders to create and preserve opportunities for families to be housed and fed and thrive without financial burdens that snow them under. I'm not talking about handouts but I am talking about enabling those who want to work and thrive to be able to do so. God wants people

to thrive. He wants us to be free. But He doesn't make us. In this country He has graciously allowed us to be engaged by voting if we so choose. If we want God's protection and blessings, we must seek Him and discover and implement His plans and purposes, for He is watching.

Vs 16 No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. 17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. 18 But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine." These verses assure us that it's not the size or skill of our army that save us. History bears this out-how many times has the weaker, smaller, beaten the bigger, stronger? It's not our own ingenuity and industry. It's not our stock market or our interest rates. It's not even our hardworking blue-collar folks or farmers, as important as they are. It's our acknowledgement of God. It's our sincere seeking of Him not just for His goodies and His blessings, but for Him. For with Him come His blessings. And apart from Him we have no good thing. Ps 79:6 says that God will pour out His wrath on the nations that do not honor Him.

Where do our blessings and protection come from? The Lord! The Lord is our help and our shield. In battle and in pandemic. In rain for our crops and in jobs for our children. In our economy and in all aspects of our national life. Ps 67:5 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. 6 **Then** the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us." As we praise Him, He blesses us! We trust in His holy name! Not in science and medicine, though we appreciate their benefits. Not in our army or navy or air force, but in God's Holy Name!

Vs 20 "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield." Do not hope in our nation, in its leaders, in its political parties, or anything else other than God alone for our salvation, our peace, our joy or our future. So many are waiting, hoping for the right person to get elected. Their hope is in that! We are to wait and hope for the Lord for He is our help! The Babylon Bee this past week had a meme that said, "Christian briefly places hope in God after the Supreme Court lets him down again." The Supreme Court, the President, the Congress will all let you down! Keep praying for our country, but keep your eyes on Jesus! Daniel 7:14, "His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." God was before the US. He will be long after the US. His kingdom is eternal, it is righteous, it is holy, it is just. It does NOT depend on our elections or on our military. It depends on Him and He is the Solid Rock and ever more shall be.

Some of us may be very excited about the direction our nation is heading. Some may be very discouraged. What do we do with that? Do not worship this nation in its good times and do not let it steal your joy in the bad. If you're a believer, your life depends on God! Who is over all nations. You have a King who will never be

impeached, removed, recalled, or defeated. His economy is always good and His army is always victorious. Ask Him to steer you through all the political propaganda from both sides. To keep your eyes focused on Jesus. By being in His Word daily. By being with brothers and sisters of like precious faith to keep each other honest. To keep us focused. Be careful not to be overly critical of our leaders. I Tim 2 tells us to pray for them, regardless of how much we like or dislike them. We ought to pray for them AT LEAST as much as we complain about them, those on the national level, on the state level and on the local level. Let's not allow someone on our news feeds or facebook to tell us who we should hate and who we should love. Let's look to Jesus' Book and Jesus' face for that. Can we disagree? Yes. Can we speak out against evil and stand for truth? We must. But let's do our best to do it like Jesus did with the help of His Holy Spirit.

Vs 21 "In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name." In Him our hearts rejoice- regardless of who wins the World Cup, of who finishes first in NASCAR or who wins the Super Bowl. Because God is good and He has shown His goodness to us! Because Jesus is risen from the dead and gives new life to all who will receive it! In Him our hearts rejoice for we trust in His holy name.

Vs 22 "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Our nation is not perfect, but it is awesome and amazing. But our prayer is for the unfailing love of our unfailing God to rest on us and our nation as we put our hope in Him for the next 25 seconds and for the next 250 years. Place your hope in Him now as we pray.