

## **Ps. 33:18-22 “As We Have Hoped in You”**

**For the Children:** People hope for all kinds of things. Maybe you hope for a particular present for your birthday; or for nice weather tomorrow; or for an end to the coronavirus. Often, those hopes are just wishes. We don't know for sure if we will get our wish. But God's children have a certain hope: that God will show His love to us, save us, help us and protect us. He will not stop us experiencing all hurt in this life. But He will bring us safely through it all until we join Him in heaven. **Questions:** What is “hope” in the Bible? How are God's children different than others in our hopes? What does it mean to “wait” for the Lord?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Attitude of the Hopeful**

- 1) Hope for Lovingkindness: The overriding theme of this section is hope. Note the emphasis on hope in vss. 18 and 22. The believer's hope needs an object: we hope in the Lord's lovingkindness. The word for “hope” means a certain expectation of a favourable future. It is the promise of lovingkindness that makes for certainty in something favourable – no matter what we go through in life.. The other things said about the believer's attitude here are all closely related to this hope.
- 2) The Fear of the Lord: Reverence for the Lord results in reverence for His Word and its promises. Since hope relies on God's promises, there must be a godly fear of the Lord if believing hope is to exist.
- 3) Waiting for the Lord: “Waiting” for the Lord (v. 20) implies a quiet, submissive spirit, as we wait with confident expectation that the Lord will deliver in His own time and manner. See also Pss. 62:1,5 and 130:5, which link hope and waiting. We hope for the Lord's lovingkindness, help and protection; and wait patiently for these to be displayed.
- 4) Rejoicing in Him: V. 21 speaks of our rejoicing in the Lord. We rejoice because we are certain that we will enjoy the favour of the Lord, for Christ's sake. Since hope implies a favourable future, it must be in something that causes joy.
- 5) Trusting in His Holy Name: We rejoice because we trust in the Lord's Holy Name (v. 21b). The word “trust” here implies a sense of security that comes from confidence in the Lord. After all, He is Yahweh, the sovereign, constant, and merciful God, upon whom we can fully rely. There is no one else like Him. He is “holy,” pure and unique.

#### **Second Point: The Lord's Response to the Hopeful**

- 1) He Watches with His Eye: The reference to the “eye of the Lord” means that He pays careful attention to His people. Not that we earn this care by our reverence for Him; rather, that He creates the fear of the Lord within those upon whom He has chosen to set His love. When we respond by acting from that fear, He fulfills His promise to show us His love and mercy.
- 2) He Delivers from Death: Part of that expression of love is that He delivers us from death. He either does so by sparing us when death appears to draw near; or by taking us through death to an even more blessed state, in the next life. That promise applies to the more ordinary threats to individual life and to the larger-scale threats to life – such as famine (v. 19) or pandemic.
- 3) He Hears Our Prayers: V. 18 promised the Lord's lovingkindness to those who fear Him and hope in Him. V. 22 is a prayer to God to do what He has promised. The Lord sets His love on those He has chosen, creates reverence and hope in them, moves them to pray for lovingkindness then answers that prayer as He always intended.
- 4) As We Have Hoped: He answers this prayer “according as we have hoped” in Him (v. 22). For if we have hoped, that means we have faith; that faith has joined us to Christ; for Christ's sake, the Lord answers this prayer “just as” we have hoped that He would – even if our faith is small and weak as a mustard-seed.

### **Conclusion:**

