

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Psalm 46

A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH

GOD is with us!

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Psalm 46

GOD very definitely is the Refuge of His People

He is a Mighty Fortress

Stronghold – strong and mighty tower

That is where we get our confidence

In His Presence

In His Protection

In His Power

- The great Lutheran scholar, Leupold wrote, “Few psalms breathe the spirit of sturdy confidence in the Lord in the midst of very real dangers as strongly as does this one”
- Martin Luther had this psalm in mind when he wrote ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our GOD’
- During the dark and dangerous periods of the reformation . . . Luther would call his co-worker to come and sing his version

He would say . . . let us sing the 64th psalm . . . and then let the devil do his worst!

- It perfectly sets forth the experience of trusting souls in tumultuous times

PSALM 46

(46:1-3) GOD'S HELP IS GREATER THAN ANY CRISIS

NKJV ¹ GOD (ELOHIM) IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE. ² THEREFORE WE WILL NOT FEAR, EVEN THOUGH THE EARTH BE REMOVED, AND THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS BE CARRIED INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA; ³ *THOUGH ITS WATERS ROAR AND BE TROUBLED, THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS SHAKE WITH ITS SWELLING. SELAH*

- GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH: Many of the Psalms begin with a description of a crisis . . . This psalm begins with the solution!
- The psalmist must be able to say this . . . from experience
- Only those who have been through the very worst . . . can truly know this
- A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE: At this point GOD is near
- The secret of confidence in GOD . . . is the consciousness of the nearness of GOD
- THEREFORE WE WILL NOT FEAR: This the logic of faith

If GOD is a real *refuge, strength, help* . . . then there is no logical reason to *fear*

- Not even in the biggest crisis (though the earth be removed)
- Given GOD's promise to protect . . . TO BE fearful is to rob GOD of His honour

(46:4-6) HIS KINGDOM IS FOREVER

THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS SHALL MAKE GLAD THE CITY OF GOD (ELOHIM), THE HOLY PLACE OF THE TABERNACLE OF THE MOST HIGH (ELYON). GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF HER, SHE SHALL NOT BE MOVED; GOD SHALL HELP HER, JUST AT THE BREAK OF DAWN. THE

NATIONS RAGED, THE KINGDOMS WERE MOVED; HE UTTERED HIS VOICE, THE EARTH MELTED.

- THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS SHALL MAKE GLAD THE CITY OF GOD: The psalmist pictures the abundant, constant provision of a river for Jerusalem

But Jerusalem does not have a river!

- No, but there will come a day when a mighty river will flow from the temple itself . . . during the millennium (Ezekiel 47)

46:9-10 clearly speaks of the 'Millennium Kingdom'

- Also in the NEW JERUSALEM . . . (Revelation 22:1-2)

THE VOICE ¹ My heavenly guide brought me to the river of *pure* living waters, *shimmering as* brilliantly as crystal. It flowed out from the throne of GOD and of the Lamb, ²flowing down the middle and dividing the street of the holy city. On each bank of the river stood the tree of life, *firmly planted*, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and producing its sweet crop every month *throughout the year*. And the *soothing* leaves that grew on the tree *of life* provided precious healing for the nations.

- GOD IS IN THE MIDST OF HER . . . blessings come because of GOD's presence
- You cannot move what GOD is in the midst of
- THE NATIONS RAGED . . . HE UTTERED HIS VOICE, THE EARTH MELTED: GOD never pays attention to the RAGE of the nations . . . just one word and the earth melts!

(46:7) THE CHORUS OF CONFIDENCE

⁷ THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE. SELAH

- Two aspects of GOD mentioned

1. KING – COMMANDER over all things

THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US: *Yahweh Saboath*

Commander of both the army of His people and the armies of Heaven

Emphasizes . . . His might and power

2. FRIEND – CARER of the individual

THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE: Jacob was a rather shabby character, not known for his great holiness

This emphasizes His mercy and grace

(46:8-9) THE LORD EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS

⁸ COME, BEHOLD THE WORKS OF THE LORD (YAHWEH), WHO HAS MADE DESOLATIONS IN THE EARTH. ⁹ HE MAKES WARS CEASE TO THE END OF THE EARTH; HE BREAKS THE BOW AND CUTS THE SPEAR IN TWO; HE BURNS THE CHARIOT IN THE FIRE.

- Dominant themes

First section was GOD as a REFUGE

Second section is GOD as the ENFORCER

- Only GOD is capable of completely routing any enemy
- Only GOD can enforce peace if He chooses to
- But when does all this occur:

The psalmist may have had several defences of Israel in mind

Prophetically . . . this points to the 1,000 year reign of CHRIST

- It doesn't matter . . . THEN . . . NOW . . . FUTURE

Considering all that . . . WE OUGHT TO HAVE SUPREME CONFIDENCE

- No matter what:
 - When the earth spins out of control
 - The mountains crumble
 - The waters run wild
- WE can be SURE and FEARLESS

(46:10) UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE WORLD WITNESSES A FUTURE WHEN WARS AND STRIVING WILL CEASE AND ALL THE NATIONS WILL KNOW AND WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD . . . WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

¹⁰ BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD (ELOHIM); I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH!

- Not 'be still' in the sense . . . hide and don't say a thing!
- It is this idea . . . 'be calm, see, and understand that GOD is the True GOD
- At rest in the fact that one day
 - He will be honoured among all the nations
 - He will be honoured over all the earth
- So certain is that . . . that all those who oppose GOD may as well lay down their arms and surrender . . . NOW

(46:11) THE CHORUS OF CONFIDENCE

¹¹ THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US; THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR REFUGE. SELAH

THE HEART OF THE MATTER: Not only is GOD a strong and mighty tower . . . but He is with us!

Because of that . . . WE should not FEAR!

The truth is . . . we do . . . but that is our problem

That is why when things are threatening . . . we should be focusing all our attention on GOD

When we do . . . we will discover that He is incredibly near!

Personal

YOUR WORLD MAY BE SHAKEN . . . but He provides us with a river of peace

YOU MAY BE IN A WARZONE (spiritually) . . . but He ends all wars

YOU MAY SEE TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON . . . one day all kingdoms will fall

So what should I do?

BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!

KNOW THAT HE SURROUNDS US

KNOW THAT HE PROTECTS US

KNOW THAT HE IS UNSHAKEABLE

KNOW THAT HE IS UNSTOPPABLE

KNOW THAT HE IS OUR SHELTER

That means . . .

STOP TRYING TO DRIVE FROM THE PASSENGERS SEAT

GOD knows what He is doing

When it is all over . . . He will be exalted . . . and we will be blessed

The Voice

Psalm 46

For the worship leader. A song of the sons of Korah, a song for sopranos

This song is attributed to the sons of Korah. It praises GOD for His strength and protection and for Jerusalem and its temple where GOD uniquely dwells. It invites the world to witness a future when wars and striving will cease and all the nations know and worship the one True GOD.

¹ GOD is our shelter and our strength. When troubles seem near, GOD is nearer, and He's ready to help. *So why run and hide?* ² No fear, *no pacing, no biting fingernails.* When the earth spins out of control, *we are sure and fearless.* When mountains crumble and the waters run wild, *we are sure and fearless.* ³ Even in heavy winds and huge waves, or as mountains shake, *we are sure and fearless.*

⁴ A *pure* stream flows—*never to be cut off*—bringing joy to the city where GOD makes His home, the sacred site where the Most High *chooses to live.* ⁵ The True GOD *never sleeps and* always resides in the city *of joy*; He makes it unstoppable, unshakable. When it awakes at dawn, the True GOD has already been at work. ⁶ Trouble is *on the horizon* for the outside nations, *not long until* kingdoms will fall; GOD's voice thunders and the earth shakes.

⁷ *You know* the Eternal, the Commander of *heavenly* armies, surrounds us *and protects us*; the True GOD of Jacob is our shelter, *close to His heart.*

⁸ Come, gaze, *fix your eyes* on what the Eternal can do. *Amazing,* He has worked desolation here on *this battlefield,* earth. ⁹ GOD can stop wars anywhere in the world. He can *make scrap of all weapons*: snap bows, shatter spears, and burn shields. ¹⁰ "Be still, *be calm, see,* and understand I am the True GOD. I am honored among all the nations. I am honored over all the earth."

¹¹ *You know* the Eternal, the Commander of *heavenly* armies, surrounds us *and protects us*; the True GOD of Jacob is our shelter, *close to His heart.*

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our GOD, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of GOD's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for GOD hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: GOD's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.