

## **PSALM 46 – God the Refuge of His People and Conqueror of the Nations!**

5/28/22 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

### **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD** - Martin Luther (1529) Festival Choir (2:01)

*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 pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

*That word above all earthly pow'rs, 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.*

### **PSALM 46 –**

- We think of how often this well-known Psalm has been turned to during times of trouble and great difficulty in the past three thousand years!
- It is thought that the forty-sixth Psalms was written for the occasion of God's deliverance from the world leading power, the Assyrians, who were threatening invasion during the time of Hezekiah. If you will remember the story, Isaiah had been counseling with King Hezekiah as it was quite apparent that the Assyrian army, which was in the process of conquering the world and had conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, was moving against Judah. Their armies were heading to Jerusalem. Up to this point, the Assyrian army had been invincible. Sennacherib had sent a letter to Hezekiah who came with threats and demanding a capitulation by Hezekiah. The whole while Isaiah was telling him to trust in the Lord, the Lord will deliver you from the hands of the Assyrians.
- The day came when the Assyrian army arrived, surrounded the city of Jerusalem and began their siege. Again, demanding surrender but people didn't like to surrender to the Assyrians because they were so cruel to their captives. They would physically mutilate their bodies. They would cut off their ears or their noses, they would pull out their tongues, they would put hooks through their lips and lead them away captive and thus, history records, when a city was surrounded by Assyrians, and they saw there was no escape often there would be mass suicides within the city. Suicide being preferable to being a captive of the Assyrians because they were so cruel.
- One morning, when the people of Israel woke up and went up to the walls to look out at the encamped Assyrian army, they saw that the whole army was lying dead in the field. The night before, an angel of the Lord passed through the camp of the Assyrians and killed one hundred and eighty-five thousand of the fighting men, wiping out the army. God gave great deliverance and thus tremendous rejoicing among the people of God in Jerusalem. It is thought that this psalm was written as a result of that deliverance by God.

***God Is Our Fortress - To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song For Alamo***  
(virgins, maidens).

***Psa 46:1 God is our refuge*** (hiding place – the “holy of holies!”) ***and strength, A very present*** (an abundantly available) ***help in trouble.***

- They saw the hand of God in their deliverance. He is our refuge. He is our strength, they didn't have to lift a hand in that battle. God delivered their enemies into their hands.

***Psa 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst*** (the heart) ***of the sea;***

- It's glorious to know God as your refuge and your strength because you do not need to fear either natural or supernatural kind of catastrophes. We, living here in California on the coastal side of the San Andrea's fault, are living over the top of the Newport/Englewood fault and living near the Whittier fault we are subject to a lot of earthquakes. Every time we have an earthquake of late, they warn us that the big one is coming. They are encouraging us to be prepared for the big one. To have water stored up and have an emergency kind of contingency set because the big one is coming and when that comes there's going to be tremendous devastation.
- There have been those false prophets who were predicting the sloughing off of this portion of the state of California on into the Ocean. The time that the San Andrea's makes its correction for its little constant slippage on the plates and soon the correction must be made. There are those who think it's going to dive into the Pacific Ocean. There have been, at various times, groups of people for fear of this have moved in mass from the state of California. There have been church groups that have involved in this kind of hysteria over the prophecies; predictions and visions of the Pacific come rolling down.
- It could be that these things are going to happen. When the tribulation comes we do read of tremendous cataclysmic happenings upon the earth. We read that every mountain and island will flee. There will be a tremendous geographical kind of changes of the earth's surface during that period of time. But if the Lord is your "refuge and strength, He is a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea!" It would sound as though the psalmist here is talking about that future day when God declared that such would be the case and these cataclysmic changes that take place during the earth during this Great Tribulation period. When God is your refuge and strength you do not need to fear even cataclysmic type of happening.

***Psa 46:3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah***

***Psa 46:4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle (dwelling places) of the Most High.***

- We realize that our time in the earth is of a limited duration. Abraham has said, "Confess that he was just a stranger and a pilgrim." He was just passing through. He was looking for the city of God, "the city which hath foundation whose maker and builder is God." He was looking towards the eternal habitation of God's people. We need to keep that in view and in our minds. I'm not planted permanently here. I'm not going to live in this body forever. This earthly tent, the tabernacle, in which I live, is in the process of deterioration. The catabolic forces are doing their work and the body is breaking down under the force. When the catabolic forces are complete and this body returns to dust, I have a building of God that is not made with hands and is eternal in the heavens. That's where I'm going to spend my eternity.
- There is a city of God that I look forward to as the eternal habitation of the saints of God. This earth is not our eternal habitation. The earth will pass away. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, my word shall never pass away." In Peter he describes how the earth will pass away and the universe. But we look for a new heaven and a new earth, that permanent place for God's people. Because God is my refuge and my strength and my heart is in the eternal things, not in the present material things. I will not fear though there is a disillusionment of the material because my heart is in the eternal.

***Psa 46:5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved (shaken); God shall help her, just at the break of dawn (turning of the morning).***

- God dwells and shall dwell with His people in the midst of that city.
- *She shall not be moved:* Permanent, established.

***Psa 46:6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.***

- The Assyrian host was the most formidable army on the face of the earth. Everyone trembled at the thought of the Assyrian army. God uttered His voice, and they were wiped out. One hundred and eighty-five thousand, that fierce force of men who had bludgeoned the world into submission and who has caused the hearts of people to fear. God uttered His voice, and they were removed.

***Psa 46:7 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah***

***Psa 46:8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth.***

- The people came to the wall, they looked out and they saw all of these corpses out there, one hundred and eighty-five thousand.

***Psa 46:9 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.***

- The chariots were the chief weapons of the Assyrians.

***Psa 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!***

- Then God responds declaring, Be still is saying, don't be upset! Don't be fearful. Don't be worried, just be still and know that I am God. What that should say to us in the midst of a troubled world as we look at the problems of our world, as we look at the problems of pornography, as we look at all these other things that we are prone to get upset about, and rightfully so. We look at the drug problem and we see these billionaire drug lords, their power and we see the seeming ineptness of our government to stem the flood of drugs and we see the menace that it is creating. We see the gangs and the power of the gangs. We see anarchy and we are prone to get all disturbed and upset but God said, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen. I will be exalted in the earth.

***Psa 46:11 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah***

- This later portion of the psalms surely goes into a prophetic note on into the kingdom age, the thousand-year millennial reign of Christ. Beginning with verse eight, as so much of prophecy has what they call the near and far fulfillment. The near fulfillment was God's desolation that He brought upon the Assyrian army. The far fulfillment of this prophecy goes out to the Great Tribulation period, the desolations that God will make upon the earth during this Great Tribulation, when there are all these cataclysmic upheavals here on the earth. How that God will bring an end to the wars. They will beat their swords into plow shears and their spears into pruning hooks." He breaks the bow. He cuts the spear. He burns the chariot. The weapons of war will be destroyed. Jesus shall reign in a kingdom of peace, a reign of peace for a thousand years upon the earth. The double fulfillment of the prophecy, the near and the far. The near dealing with the Assyrian army being destroyed! The is when the earth is made desolate during the Great Tribulation in order to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishing of the kingdom of God, a kingdom of peace and righteousness for a thousand years.

#### **SUMMARY:**

- God is present with me! There is only one God! He is my God! When I realize that, then I can be still, in any given circumstance I find myself in, even when it looks like the world, my world, is collapsing on every front, we can have peace, because we have a refuge in God!
- Our lives are in the hands of the LORD! Be still, because no one else is in charge! God is in charge of human history. He is going to work human history to His God-appointed end! God is in control!

**ALL HEAVEN DECLARES, WE EXALT THEE! (4:14)**

*Forever You will be (Forever you will be)*

*The Lamb upon the throne (The Lamb upon the throne)*

*I gladly bow my knee (I gladly bow my knee) And I'll worship You alone (4x)*

*We exalt Thee We exalt Thee We exalt Thee, oh Lord, (4x)*

**FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -**

**Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Muhammadu Buhari - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Naftali Bennett – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Boris Johnson – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.**

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY;  
ISRAEL:**