

Psalm 46

Psalms 46:1-3 [New King James] *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.”*

This Psalm proclaims God’s authority over all things beginning with His physical creation of the earth and the great powers that we see.

Note we are told to pause and meditate on what this means, [selah].

Psalms 46:4-7 [New King James] *“There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 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. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”*

With God the menacing seas become a life-giving river.

The “*city of God*” is one of the great themes of the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms.

God’s choice of Zion, or Jerusalem, had been as striking as His choice of David and the wonder of it keeps breaking through.

For it is **only** as God’s abode that Jerusalem is either strong [**verse 5**] or of any consequence, yet it will be the envy of the world [**Psalms 68:15**] and mother-city of the nations [**Psalm 87**].

The Old Testament points towards the New Testament version of Zion as a heavenly community rather than just a locality on earth, [Psalms 48:2].

The promise “*that she shall not be moved*” gains special force from the same word “*moved*” being used of the mountains that “*shake*” [**verse 2**] and of the kingdom’s “*moved*” [**verse 6**], impressive though they are in comparison with little Zion.

Also the words “*at the break of dawn*” set up an echo of the great deliverance of all, the moment “*when the morning appeared*” the Red Sea turned back to engulf the armies of Egypt, [**Exodus 14:27**].

Judgement as in some other scriptures is seen here in both its aspects; first, the outworking of the inherent instability of evil, “*nations raged,*” and “*moved.*”

Secondly, the intervention of God, whose “voice” will be as decisive in the dissolving of the earth as it was in creating it, [Psalms 33:6, 9].

Psalms 46:7 [New King James] *“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”*

The “*hosts*” could refer to the armies of Israel, [**1 Samuel 17:45**] or those in heaven, [**1 Kings 22:19**].

The mention of Jacob, God’s chosen, speaks of grace.

The word “*refuge*” here and **verse 11** is distinct from that of **verse 1**, which implies inaccessible height.

Psalms 46:8-9 [New King James] *“Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. 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 word “*behold*” is generally used for seeing with our “*inner eye*,” [mind] as a “*seer*” or prophet sees.

The words “*He makes wars cease*” are set in a world that is devastated and forcibly disarmed, [verses 8-9].

This tranquillity is on the far side of judgement, [Daniel 12:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13].

Psalms 46:10-11 [New King James] *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”*

“*Be still*” is more of a rebuke to the turbulent world than a command to His people.

This end is stated **not** in human hopes but for the glory of God, that all people will at last come to know the true Creator God.

This firm intention of the Creator God will arouse the resentment of proud human beings, but a longing for the humble who are cruelly treated by the proud.

All humans will eventually be forced to accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

To accept it now will avoid a lot of pain and terror.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This is how we can be among those who are protected by Jesus Christ when the rest of humanity are in the midst of the corrective tribulation, [Matthew 24:21-24, 31].