**"THE BOOK OF PSALMS"**

**Psalm 46: God is Our Mighty Fortress**

**January 27, 2021**

**OBJECTIVES IN THIS STUDY:**

1. To appreciate the values of the psalms to the individual and the community.
2. To appreciate the uniqueness of the psalms as scripture and as the voice of God

**Summary:** Psalm 46 is ascribe to the Director of Music, of the Sons of Korah, according to the *alamoth, A song. The word “alamoth*” in Hebrew means “maiden” may refer to the maidens playing tambourines during for the liturgical procession making its way to the temple. Psalm 46 pictures a world that is turned upside down, but one in which Christians can find peace in place of fear because God is with us.

**Opening Question**. In what ways does it feel to you like our world is being turned upside down right now?

1. **The Confession (46:1,7,11)**
   1. God, The Lord Almighty and God of Jacob
   2. God is for us and with us, Covenanted relationship (as with Jacob ex 3:13-17)
   3. Yahweh “Lord” and Immanuel “God with us”
   4. God is a refuge, ever present help and God is a Fortress
2. **Theophany (46:2-7)**
   1. Fearless trust in God
   2. The blessings of God
   3. The breaking of day dispels the darkness
   4. God’s unfailing love (Lam 3:22-23)
   5. God has set you apart
   6. God is with us and our Fortress
3. **Prophetic Oracles (46:8-10)**
   1. Consider the works of God
   2. Remember God’s care, protection, and providential rule
   3. The joy of no distress
   4. Be still and know God
   5. A time of final vindication

**Life Application Questions for Study and Reflection:**

1. Observe how God is described in verse 1 and then define what each of those three descriptions mean.

2. Observe how the world is described in verses 2-3. What is your impression of the picture of the world that is given in those verses?

3. In verse 2, the psalmist declares that we will not fear. On what basis does the psalmist make that claim?

4. Compare the description of the city of God in verses 4-5 with the description of the world in verses 2-. What is different between the two?

5. The remainder of this Psalm describes God’s work in this world to bring down everything that opposes His kingdom for the sake of His people and His name. What do you learn from these verses

6. What are some of the works of the Lord described in the Bible in which God delivers His people from enemies? Closing Reflection and Application

7. What does it mean to find our refuge and strength in God? Have you made God your refuge?

8. What are some of the things you have sometimes wrongly taken refuge in other than God?

9. In what ways can you specifically take refuge in God at this time?

10. In what way is Jesus the fulfillment of this Psalm? How is He our refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble? (You might find it encouraging to read something like John 11 at this time.)

11. What are you doing right now to make sure that you are spending time in God’s Word and in prayer? How are you helping others to do the same? (*Consider: are you spending more time on social media than reading your Bible?)*

12. How does this Psalm help you to find peace in the middle of a global pandemic?

13. How can you share this hope with others at this time?

**To the Chief Musician. *A Psalm* of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamoth. (NKJV)**

46 God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.  
2Therefore 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*

4*There is* a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy *place* of the tabernacle of the Most High.  
5God *is* in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.  
6The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

7The Lord of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. *Selah*

8Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has made desolations in the earth.  
9He 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.

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

11The Lord of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. *Selah*