

Evening Sermon Outline – December 22, 2019

“Our Mighty Fortress” Psalm 46

I. *God is our Refuge, Protection*

¹ **God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1**

1. *Our Refuge - “A Mighty Fortress is Our God, a bulwark never failing ...” Martyn Luther*

God is our Great Wall, our protection against all enemies

2. *Our Strength –*

¹⁰ **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Ephesians 6:10–12 (NKJV)**

A. *This is especially true when we pray to and depend upon Him –*

³¹ **But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)**

B. *God’s strength is ours when we trust Him, believe in Him, pray to Him –*

²² **So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.**

²⁴ **Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*. Mark 11:22–24 (NKJV)**

C. *Because God is our Refuge and Strength, we should never fear, no matter what our circumstance –*

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. Psalm 46:2-3

II. *God is our River, Refreshment –*

⁴ ***There is* a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy *place* of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵ *God is* in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶ The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; The God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Psalm 46:4-6 (NKJV)**

1. *It is a matter of controversy whether Jerusalem had a literal physical river flowing to it? Was is Siloam a river? It certainly was not the Nile, or Euphrates, or Mississippi... If it be called a river at all it was small!*

2. *Rivers were important to cities in those days, as water flowing into a city was needed for life, and a city under siege without a river or a large, not easily stoppable river was extremely vulnerable to its enemies-*

1. *The people of God have a spiritual river flowing to them!*

2. *Our River is God’s Holy Spirit –*

A. *This is expressly stated by Jesus –*

³⁷ **On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37–39 (NKJV)**

B. *This is best understood when we understand we are moral creatures, created in God’s image –*

• *Moral creatures are subject to punishment for sin –*

¹⁶ **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV)**

23 **For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

• *God’s Spirit, Who is the Holy people refreshes them first by reviving in them a hunger and THIRST for righteousness –*

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**

For they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

When a person is not thirsty water is no great thing!

Not until we realize we lack and NEED spiritual and moral things, righteousness do we long for them!

3. *When we need Him most, God will be with us –*

⁵ **God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. Psalm 46:5**

III. *His roar and who He is for... He is our God; in our battles with the ungodly –*

⁶ **The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, 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. Psalm 46:6-9**

1. *The characteristic of the ungodly, they rage –*

“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? Psalm 2:1

A. *It is a beastly, unthinking rage*

B. *It is a rage against God, His laws and His people –*

¹⁸ **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. John 15:18 (NKJV)**

C. *It is a rage that flows out of inward enmity to God –*

⁷ **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:7 (NKJV)**

It is a rage incapable of contenting with God – He uttered His voice, the earth melted Psalm 46:6 B

2. *God Who is with us, is the LORD of Hosts, meaning the God of armies –*

A. *The LORD of Hosts title means God is in control of everything and can enlist any into His army, for instance with Jonah, there was:*

- *A storm – Jonah 1:4*

- *Scared praying, cargo throwing, lot-casting sailors - Jonah 1:5-7*

- *A great fish – Jonah 1:17*
All of these were part of God’s army!

3. *Were called to view God’s works – Psalm 46:8-9*

The same things we still see all around us today!

IV. *The final lesson, Be still and know ...*

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

1. *This was true in Egypt, though they were slaves for four-hundred years God finally brought them out, and with a mighty hand – Exodus 15*

2. *God’s final word to us is ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God*

A. *This is a condemnation of anxiety, anxious pacing, impatient sinful action but not a condemnation of PRAYER ---*

⁵ **Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.**

⁶ **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:5–7 (NKJV)**

B. *This is a focusing on God peace –*

³ **You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. ⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26:3–4 (NKJV)**

3. *In the end, God will be exalted!*

4. *He is with us –*

²³ **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)**

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