

Psalm 46:1-11

Introduction

In a world that is rocking and reeling, where can we find security?

When the foundations are shaking, where can safety and stability be found?

Not in wealth, abilities or relationships.

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

Summary

Psalm 46 shows what a difference God makes in times of difficulty and danger and directs us in such times, to trust in God.

1. Strong Refuge vv. 1-3

The psalm begins with the confident assertion that the Lord is the strength of his people (vs. 1).

The psalmist honestly acknowledges that men and women are weak and vulnerable in the face of many dangers. Despite all the upheavals and turmoil in the world, however, one thing makes all the difference: “God is our refuge” (vs. 1).

Psalm 46 insists that nothing in this world can really protect us or make us strong. Only God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in every kind of trouble.

2. Great Need vv. 4-7

The psalmist speaks next of God defending his city (vv. 4-7).

In its original context, this probably refers to a time when a great enemy rose up and advanced against Israel and Jerusalem (vs. 6a)

Psalm 46:6b 'He [The Lord] utters his voice, the earth melts."

Why did Jerusalem not fall to the mighty Assyrians?

Vs. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns."

The church and Christians will go through periods of nighttime and darkness, but light will come in the morning if God is with her.

The most important thing for the Christian and the church today is that the holy God should dwell in her midst.

God's holy presence in the midst of His holy people is like a refreshing river of blessing flowing through his city (vs. 4).

Psalm 46:1-11 GRBC Morning Worship AM April 26, 2020

Regardless of other difficult circumstances or dangers, though we find ourselves in the most barren wasteland, "there is a river," the streams of which make God's church glad.

What is this river?

It is the gospel of God's free grace in His Son, Jesus Christ?.

3. Glorious Purpose vv. 8-11

What is the purpose of God's great triumph over the greatest of earthly enemy powers?

Psalm 46:10 I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"

This is the purpose for which the church exists and the ultimate end for which the gospel was given.

Psalm 46 speaks of two ways in which the church is to serve the purpose of God's glory in the world.

- **First**, through the church's witness (**vv. 8-9**).
- **Secondly**, the church is to stand before God and totally depend on Him (**vs. 10**).

4. Solid Rock

Psalm 46 shows us our great need: for God to be with us, our fortress and strength, a present help in trouble.

As Christians, we are to realize constantly our need for God's protection, but also also to realize that if God is with us, we truly have nothing to fear because Jesus Christ, God's Son, came into this world to save and protect all who come to him in faith.

The greatest storm is the coming judgment of God at the end of time when God's wrath will strike in unabated fury against all who are still in their sins.

Such wrath is something truly to be feared.

The only fortress strong enough to withstand the great wrath of the holy God on the last great day is Jesus Christ, the great rock who is the strength and shelter of His people.

Jesus is the great refuge to protect against that storm and all other storms of this life.