

The Fearless Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 46

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I. A Mighty Fortress

II. The Fearless Man

A. First Stanza: God is our Refuge and Strength (1-3)

God is our *Refuge* and our *Strength*. God is the one with whom we can hide when we are troubled and He is the one who strengthens us to accomplish great feats. In other words, God grants *us* (the Church) assurance of _____ and _____.

B. Second Stanza: God is in the Midst of Zion (4-7 cf. Is. 8:6-10)

The second stanza develops the twofold vision of God as our *refuge* (4-5a) and *strength* (5b-6). First, God is our refuge, our source of safety. Because *God is with us* we always have a provision of fresh water. Second, God is our *strength*, our source of victory. When it seems that the church must perish, when God's purposes on earth must come to an end – then God shall rescue her and demonstrate that the surpassing power is His and not ours.

So what is our confidence? *The Lord of hosts is with us* (our source of _____); *the God of Jacob is our refuge* (our source of _____).

C. Third Stanza: Be Still and Know that Yahweh is God (8-11 cf. Mal 1:11)

The third stanza concludes, therefore, with a summons to faith: observe the way in which God has dealt with His enemies in the past and thus protected His people; He merely *utters His voice* and the earth melts. God has always and will always protect His Church. Therefore, “*Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*” As God declares through the prophet Malachi: “*For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts*” (Mal 1:11).

III. Application

A. The Reality of Trials

First, Psalm 46 reminds us that trials are real and often ugly. When Jacob arrived in Egypt, he told Pharaoh, “*few and evil have been the days of the years of my life*” (Gen 47:9). Like Jacob, we often face trials, we face *tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword* (cf. Rom 8:35). The psalms don't minimize these trials; they maximize God's power and love.

B. The Lord of Hosts, the God of Jacob

But Psalm 46 reminds us that the God whom we serve rules over all these things for the benefit of His people. We serve a God who is not only Almighty but who uses His Almighty power for the benefit of His own people. God is *our refuge and our strength* – He assures us of _____ and, what’s more, of _____.

1. The Lord of Hosts (cf. 2 Kgs 6:8-23; 19:35-37)

2. The God of Jacob

Notice that this psalm is an _____ psalm. If you aren’t part of “us” then this psalm gives you no hope. The psalm insists that God is a *refuge* and *strength* to _____; He is the *God of Jacob*. God will use His Almighty power for our benefit only if we are sons of Jacob. So who are the sons of Jacob? Paul answers:

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ... And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:26-29)

Therefore, if you are Christ’s, then you can sing this psalm as your own for God has promised to bless those who bless His people and to curse those who curse them.

Remember Paul’s assurance in Romans 8:31-32, 35, 37:

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

C. The Response of Faith (cf. Dt 31:1-8)

Third, Psalm 46 urges us to be men and women of faith. It reminds us that *sound* _____ *begets sound confidence*. As Israel prepared to invade Canaan, Moses spoke these words to Joshua in the presence of all Israel:

“Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” (Dt 31:7-8)

IV. Conclusion (cf. Is 50:5-9)

The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. “For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord God will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up. (Is 50:5-9)