

Psalm 46 (#1) 9.13.2020 (20071)
The Lord our Refuge

I. What is the psalm saying?

A. Well, here's what it does NOT say...

1. That if you walk with God you will never experience trouble. Jn.16:33
 - a) In this age there are only varying degrees and durations of trouble.
2. That we can create our own security.
 - a) It assumes we have no real control over things that way.
3. It is cast in an environment of stress and trauma.

B. It says that this is an evil age. Gal.1:4

1. It says that there are times when the world looks like it's melting down, when nations are in a blind rage, when civilizations totter.
2. Much of the emotional trauma that people experience is because they are shocked to find that the world is really broken.

II. Where then is the hope?

A. In his presence with us during the traumas. 1, 7, 11.

1. When the world is melting down around us (2-3)
2. We can discover that God is actually with us.
 - a) Matza = to find, to discover
3. He does not promise that we will not be traumatized, *but that he is for us in the trauma and with us in it.*

B. In his river that sustains us when the siege is on. 4

1. A city with a has a source of life that enables it to survive the siege.
2. He is the source of the living water, the river of life (Rev.
3. The City of God is a theme through the Bible. **Isa.26:1-4**
 - a) Rev. 21. The New Jerusalem = God's perfect civilization, the produce of the resurrection of the universe.
4. The world's confused rage is disorienting until we look up.

C. In his promise of eventual and eternal peace. 9-10

1. Bringing desolations and making wars to cease, breaking the bow and shattering the spear and burning the chariots with fire.

III. What should we do?

A. Trust more in his work than in our efforts. 6b, 8, 9

1. There is a theme of God's providence and sovereignty through this psalm. None of the trauma catches him by surprise.
 - a) There is much for us to do of course (Eph.2:8-10), but we tend to focus on our own works instead of his and this gets everything out of focus.
2. His work of moving history toward the defeat of evil. (Revelation)
 - a) YHWH Sabaoth = Lord of the Armies = the almighty One making war on evil and winning
3. **This implies prayer on our part**—always implied in the subject of providence because prayer is how God accomplishes through us the redemptive work he is doing in the world.

B. Focus more on his glory than on our survival. 10

1. Our lives find perspective and focus only when we live for him instead of just for ourselves. Eph.1:11-12.
2. He will be exalted in the earth, and when he is, the earth will be finally at peace.
3. The purpose for life: to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Soli Deo Gloria.

C. Rest in him instead of wrestling with him. 10-11

1. Be still and know that I am God.
 - a) Means to calm down, pay attention, like when a father stops a fight between siblings.
2. Turning away from God doesn't help anything. Many people are angry at God when unexpected trauma strikes. But why? He is very realistic about evil in the world and his experience of it.
3. But they misunderstand, thinking that life in this age is all there is and that it is not (or should not be) hard.
 - a) They subscribe to the phrase: "*Life is Good, but God is Hard.*"
 - b) But the opposite is true: *Life is Hard, but God is Good.*
 - c) God has absorbed the worst trauma in this fallen world so that we can serve redemptively in this world by looking beyond it.