

Sunday Night Message

November 3, 2013

Psalm 46

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 46

Introduction

It is believed that this psalm, and the next two, may have been written by King Hezekiah, and the historical context of the psalm was God's deliverance to the city of Jerusalem when threatened by the Assyrian army. (See 2 Kings 18 - 19, 2 Chronicles 32, and Isaiah 36 - 37)

Still others believe that this psalm, along with the next two, are prophetic, picturing the deliverance of the people of Israel in the Tribulation Period. (See Revelation 14:19 - 20; 19:11 - 21)

I believe that it is possible that this psalm could be representative of both. There are many historical events in the Old Testament that are pictures or types of future events.

"To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth."

Note – "Alamoth" a reference to soprano singers, and could be a reference to virgins. The word "Almah" is the word for virgin in Isaiah 7:14. (See Exodus 15:1 - 21 for another song sung by women regarding another great victory wrought by God.)

I God Provides Strength When We Are Weak (vs. 1 - 3)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1)

"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;" (Psalms 46:2)

"Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah." (Psalms 46:3)

Notice that God is a present help. I'm glad that we don't have to always wait until the sweet by and by to achieve the victory. When your world is collapsing around you, you can trust God to deliver you. He will either deliver

you in the storm, or He may deliver you from the storm; but rest assured He will get you through. You just have to trust Him, and remain faithful.

II God Provides Sustenance and Security When We Are in Want (vs. 4 - 7)

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High." (Psalms 46:4)

"God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." (Psalms 46:5)

"The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted." (Psalms 46:6)

"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah." (Psalms 46:7)

Notice the reference to the river. When the people of Jerusalem were barricaded within the city walls, hiding from the Assyrian army, they should have had no water, but Hezekiah had built an underground water system that connected the Spring of Gihon in Kidron with the Pool of Siloam within the city, so water was available (2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles. 32:30).¹ However, the point the psalmist was making is that God was the river that would sustain them. (See Psalm 1; Ezekiel 47:1 – 12; Revelation 22:1 – 3)

III God Provides Supremacy When We Can't Win (vs. 8 - 11)

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth." (Psalms 46:8)

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire." (Psalms 46:9)

"Be still (literally – take your hands off), and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalms 46:10)

"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah." (Psalms 46:11)

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., pp. 173–174). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.