

Introduction:

The Occasion of the Psalm is uncertain.

Martin Luther's famous hymn, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, (*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*), the battle hymn of the Reformation, was inspired by Psalm 46.

Psalm 46 divides fairly easily into three sections (Vv. 1-3; 4-7; 8-11). The latter two [sections] are marked by a repeated refrain, *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge* (vv. 7 and 11). All three sections conclude with *Selah!*

Outline:

1. **Secured in God's protection there is nothing to fear (Ps. 46:1-3)**

The Psalm begins with a declaration of what God is to the congregation.

God is our:

- Refuge
- Strength

A very present help in trouble; that is, a help that can be found when you need it.

Therefore there is no fear of disasters caused by nature (v. 3 "waters rage").

"Even if the earth and the mountains should sink back into the waters out of which they appeared on the third day of the creation, so that consequently the old chaos should return" (Keil-Delitzsch). (See Genesis 1:9-13)

2. **The Presence of God is the joy and security of His people (Ps. 46:4-7)**

"Just as, according to Gen. 2:10, a stream issued from Eden, to water the whole garden, so a stream makes Jerusalem as it were into another paradise: a river whose streams make glad the city of God" (Keil-Delitzsch). Even so, God blesses His people!

There is no fear in disasters caused by nations (v. 6 "nations rage"),

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold" (v. 7).

3. **God's Works should be the object of our meditation (Ps. 46:8-11)**

The Exhortation (vv. 8-9)

"Come, behold, what the LORD has done"

- He makes wars to *cease or rest* (*shabat*, Gen. 2:2)
- He destroys the implements of warfare (v. 9). See Isa. 9:5, where the child who is to be born will destroy the implements of warfare
- He burns the chariots with fire

God's Demand (v. 10)

- He admonishes the nations "to cease and desist" from their vain efforts to destroy His people, and bids them to recognize Him as the true God, who will manifest His absolute supremacy
- The Psalm concludes with the refrain of triumphant chorus of faith and gratitude (v. 11)

Lessons:

1. Our response to trials is determined by what God is to us.
2. God's past deliverances should teach us to trust him in our present circumstances.
3. God will ultimately triumph over all nations.
4. God's incessant presence is our confidence in the midst of the chaos of life.