

PEACE IN THE CHAOS

Monday, April 9

Reading: Psalm 46

Psalm 46:10 *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* **11** *The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

The news can be very scary! We hear about all the hurricanes, flooding, and disasters around the world and wonder what is going on with nature. Then there are the political tensions between nations that always seem to be on the verge of exploding. There is the ongoing war on terror simmering in the background. It seems like our world is coming apart at the seams! That is where Psalm 46 can bring us comfort.

No one knows for sure when this psalm was written. Many believe that it was written after the Assyrian invasion of Judah where God wiped out the army that surrounded Jerusalem "at break of day" (see Isaiah 36-37). All we can say for sure is that it was written during some national trouble from which God delivered them.

The first part of the psalm talks about the upheavals of nature - the sea roaring and mountains quaking and falling (46:2-3). In spite of this turmoil, the psalm proclaims "we will not fear" because God is our refuge and strength. He does not promise to always get us OUT of the trouble, but God does promise to be "an ever-present help IN trouble" (46:1).

The roar of the seas now becomes the roar of nations and the collapse of the mountains becomes the fall of kingdoms (46:6-9). The psalmist looks to that future day when the Lord will put an end to all war. He pictures God in two ways. First, He is the "Lord Almighty." The older translations say "the Lord of hosts." It is a picture of God as a warrior leading His armies into battle. The second title used is more personal - "the God of Jacob." God is not just some far off warrior before whom we stand in awe. He is also the personal God who longs for a loving, caring relationship with His people.

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (46:10). Amidst all the turmoil of disasters, wars, and trouble God wants us to stop fighting. This is a call to surrender to Him. God not only knows about the problems of this world, He is Lord over them! He is not an escape from history; He is working out His purposes IN history!

In the middle of the psalm we are reminded that we are not part of the world's system. We belong to the "city of God" (46:4-5). For the ancient Israelites, Jerusalem was a picture of the place where God dwells. Today, we know that God dwells in believers' hearts in the Person of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the turbulent waters of this world, the Spirit's presence within us can be a gentle stream that brings us peace in the chaos.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Judges 7-9; John 3