

Be Still and Know that I am God

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. *Selah* ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah* ⁸ Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰ “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. *Selah*

This psalm has its setting during the time when Assyria had conquered Israel (ten northern tribes) and many surrounding nations and even the countryside of Jerusalem. They had now set their eyes on the two southern tribes known as Judah.

The city of Jerusalem was surrounded the Assyrian army led by Sennacherib. (He was probably one of the most ruthless leaders in the history of the world). He thundered many threats about the might of his army and what they would do to Judah. He even resorted to speaking the language that was common to the everyday Jew. By this he hoped that the people inside the walls would not listen to Hezekiah and give up.

Hezekiah was King of Judah. He placed his trust in the Lord and responded in prayer to the Lord. God answered Hezekiah's prayer in this psalm, silencing Sennacherib by having an angel kill 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night.

There have always been loud and ruthless leaders, and that hasn't changed. Today we regularly hear menacing outbursts from countries like Iran and North Korea which are frequently accompanied by military actions.

The coronavirus has quieted many threats from foreign powers. However, a tug of war in our country as to who is responsible and how has what power is in the news daily. While God doesn't send an angel to kill massive numbers of troops, He still lets the world know that He is still in charge. That can be our great comfort as we go day by day, often isolated from others.

Dear Lord, help me to always trust in you when the world is loud, brash and frightening. Help me to regularly be in Your Word so that my faith may be made ever stronger each day no matter what is happening beyond the walls of my house. Give me the peace that only you can give about my sure and certain eternal destiny. In You I place my full confidence. Amen.